

U.S. citizen dies in Palestinian custody

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — A U.S. citizen of Palestinian origin died in hospital after being taken ill from a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) interrogation centre in self-ruled Jenin, Palestinian security officials said on Friday. They said Wasil Azzam Abdul Rahim, who was being held for questioning on a criminal offence, suffered a heart attack on Thursday night and was taken to hospital where he died. A spokesperson for the U.S. consulate in Jerusalem confirmed that Abdul Rahim, an American citizen in his early 50s, had died but gave no information on the circumstances. "We are looking at the circumstances of his death," the spokesperson said. Abdul Rahim's relatives told reporters they found marks of torture on his body when they brought it from a Jenin hospital for burial at his native village of 'Ain Yabrud, near the West Bank town of Ramallah. Relatives assaulted cameramen who tried to take pictures of the funeral, journalists said.

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Clinton: Israel fully committed to self-rule accord

U.S. pledges to do 'whatever it takes' to complete peace process after Israel, PLO sign agreement; prisoner release delayed, but Arafat unfazed; Peres says Palestinian state unrealistic, confederation with Jordan is best for all

Combined agency dispatches

WASHINGTON — U.S. President Bill Clinton said Friday he believed Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and his government will fulfill "both the letter and spirit" of the Palestinian autonomy accord signed here.

"I believe (Israel's) prime minister and its government are completely committed to this," Mr. Clinton told reporters ahead of a meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

His comments came as Israel delayed the release of more than 1,000 Palestinian prisoners that was to coincide with Thursday's signing ceremony.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said he was untroubled by the delay and expected the release in a few days.

"They (Israelis and Palestinians) know exactly what they are getting into. They have made very, very deep commitments to one another," Mr. Clinton said.

"And just as I believe that Chairman Arafat is going to do its best to try to manage the terror, I believe that the prime minister will do everything he can to fulfill both the letter and the spirit of the agreement."

Earlier Friday, Mr. Clinton told Israel TV he was "prepared to do whatever it takes" to close the circle of peace in the Middle East.

"I think that in order for peace to be achieved, I will

have to be deeply, personally involved," Mr. Clinton said in an interview.

Since Middle East peace talks began in 1991, Israel has concluded a peace treaty with Jordan and reached several interim agreements with the Palestinians. However, Israel's negotiations with Syria and Lebanon remain deadlocked.

"I am prepared to do whatever it takes to try and finish the entire peace process which includes an agreement with Syria and Lebanon as well as the final status of the agreement between the Israelis and the Palestinians," Mr. Clinton told Israel TV.

Mr. Clinton also pledged to support Israel in its campaign to stop suicide attacks by militants who have killed dozens of Israelis over the past two years.

"I hate terrorism. I will do everything I can to support Israel's attempt to stamp it out," Mr. Clinton said.

"But I believe that only the long run, the course we are pursuing, is more likely to bring an end to terrorism than trying to go back the other way and having no agreement. Then the enemies of peace will have a field day," Mr. Clinton added.

Mr. Clinton was evasive when asked whether the United States would move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. As a presidential candidate in 1992, Mr. Clinton had spoken of recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital, but as president did not follow up.

"I felt that historically,

Jerusalem was the capital of Israel and would someday have the embassies, including ours," he said in Friday's interview.

However, he added that as a mediator in the negotiations, the United States "should not do anything to make a public display that would disrupt the peace process."

"That is the most important thing now, the integrity of the peace process," Mr. Clinton said.

Under the glittering chandeliers of the East Room, Mr. Clinton presided Thursday over two hours of speeches and pageantry before an audience of 200 diplomats, foreign ministers, cabinet secretaries and members of Congress.

Mr. Arafat, who fought in his first war against Israel as a teenager in 1948, and Mr. Rabin, an Israeli brigade commander in that war, signed the 400-page agreement at 1:16 p.m. EDT (1716 GMT).

Standing alongside a beaming President Clinton — who stands to get a political boost from U.S. mediation of the accord — the two then duplicated the famous ice-breaking handshake they exchanged two years ago in signing a declaration of peace principles at the White House.

Israel meanwhile delayed the start of the release of Palestinian prisoners that was to have coincided with the signing of the autonomy accord, with officials saying a few days were needed to

study the cases of women prisoners who had taken part in attacks on Israelis.

Mr. Arafat was meanwhile meeting U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on economic cooperation with the West Bank and the Gaza Strip under the autonomy pact.

A tripartite commission on economic development has been established including the United States, Israel and Jordan, but Mr. Arafat expressed hope of more countries helping in the economic effort.

Mr. Peres meanwhile underlined the need to work on economic matters to make the autonomy accord a success.

"We all have to mobilise," Mr. Peres said, citing in particular a plan to establish industrial zones between Israel and the territories "in

stead of putting mines" there.

Mr. Christopher for his part said he hoped Thursday's accord would provide "a very strong incentive" for donor nations to follow through on pledges of economic aid.

So far \$2.4 billion has been promised to the Palestinians, but only \$650 million has been released.

Mr. Peres said the autonomy agreement to transfer most of the occupied West Bank to Palestinian control will likely lead to a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation, not a Palestinian state as envisaged by Mr. Arafat.

Mr. Peres told CBS "This Morning" that Mr. Arafat was entitled to his dream of a Palestinian state, but said "we didn't agree about

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U.S. launches \$50m project

THE UNITED States on Friday launched a \$50 million project to improve water and other services for Palestinians in the West Bank.

"The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) launched a four-year, \$50 million project designed to significantly improve the quality and quantity of basic municipal services to Palestinian residents of the West Bank," the U.S. Information Service said in a statement.

"The municipal services

project consists of critical infrastructure activities. The first set of activities, focusing on water, totals \$8 million and will be implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

"It will include a \$3 million activity to construct and rehabilitate water systems in more than a dozen West Bank villages, providing 60,000 people with running water in their homes for the first time."

The project also included a \$3 million water system for Hebron.

Without specifically naming Syria and Lebanon, the King said he had accepted long ago that without engaging the opposite party in dialogue there could be no solution to the conflict.

He implicitly referred to his contacts with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin before Jordan and Israel made peace and recalled that President Clinton had asked the two of them as to how many years they had known each other.

"I'd like to say that more than I would care to remember," said the King. "As people in positions of responsibility, peace has always been our dream and our hope, and we strove to achieve it and turn it into a reality. Our relations passed through some very difficult moments, passed through strife, and tragedies. Permit me to say from my limited experience, I have always sought to place myself in my opposite number's position time and again because when peace arrives when such a goal is achieved it is not a question of one side winning and other losing. The reality is that everybody wins and for that to happen there has to be understanding and compromise and there has to be dedication and courage and

(Continued on page 2)

King: No losers and all winners in peace

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein has expressed hope that the deadlock in negotiations between Syria and Israel and Lebanon and Israel would be broken soon so that the "circle" of peace in the Middle East could be completed.

The King, delivering a short address at a reception hosted by U.S. President Bill Clinton after Thursday's signing of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy agreement, also paid tribute to the Palestinian leadership for its "courageous" decision to make peace with Israel.

The King said there would be no losers in making peace, and both sides were the winners, but the key question for the leaders was to accept that conflicts could not be resolved without engaging the opposite party in negotiations.

"How can you make peace with somebody you do not know?" said the King. "How can you make peace with someone you cannot talk to? How can you explore the possibilities the venues how can you build trust and mutual confidence in each other?"

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They reiterated the call for an end to the Arab boycott as soon as possible.

The five leaders expressed their condemnation in the strongest possible terms of all



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Libya: Palestinians leaving en masse

TRIPOLI (Agencies) — Libya on Friday announced the departure en masse of Palestinians expelled on the orders of the country's leader Muammar Qadhafi.

The official agency JANA said: "The Palestinian masses have started today to implement their decision concerning the return to Palestine."

"A certain number of

Palestinian families have begun their return journey,"

the agency added, without giving details on the numbers involved.

Col. Qadhafi said in a Sept. 1 speech that it was time for Palestinians in Arab states to "go home" in an attempt to swamp the Gaza Strip and West Bank and show the "failure" of Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreements to establish self-rule there.

More than 5,000 Libya's 30,000 Palestinians have been expelled across the borders with Egypt since then.

The Libyans have now set

up 38 large tents on their side

of the border and border

officials said they were

putting up more tents for

future deportees.

Two U.N. agencies called on Libya and other Arab states to help put an end to the suffering of Palestinians ejected by Tripoli.

The heads of the U.N. High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) called on Tripoli and Arab governments to "redouble their efforts" to solve the crisis.

"I urge the Libyan government to reconsider the current wave of forced relocations," the agency said.

"Other governments to find a speedy solution to restocking humanitarian problems."

"To condemn them to a

nebulous existence in closed

camp or in no man's land is

scarcely a satisfactory solution

to the complex situation

affecting Palestinian refugees," it said.

The statement said that re-

ports from Libya say "a

further 1,500 Palestinians are

currently being relocated

from their homes to one or

more camps in the Tulkarm

area, 150 kilometres from

the Egyptian border at Rafah

while the rest of the 150 on

the bus to Jordan through

the Egyptian Red

crosses the border to

the Gaza Strip.

"Many of the expelled

Palestinians had been living a

normal life in Libya for more

than 20 years. Libya was

generous to them. It is very

sad to see such an abrupt and

cruel disruption of their

lives," it said.

Israeli is stabbed

WASHINGTON (USA) — President Bill Clinton and the leaders of Jordan, Egypt, Israel and the Palestinian Authority pledged "to do everything possible to ensure successful and complete implementation" of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement signed Sept. 28 in Washington.

In a joint declaration of the Washington Summit, issued by the White House, President Clinton, King Hussein, President Hosni Mubarak, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Chairman Yasser Arafat met today to review the dramatic progress which has already been made on the road to realization of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East and to consider ways and means together to reinforce and accelerate that progress.

Clinton gets first-hand brush with last-minute snag in self-rule deal

WASHINGTON (USA) — Last minute snags are not rare in negotiating high-level diplomatic agreements, but President Bill Clinton reminded his Middle Eastern guests Thursday that there is a certain amount of pressure involved when the obstacle pops up with television cameras already focused on the signing table.

The snag, a senior administration official was quick to point out, involved a relatively minor language problem and did not threaten signing of the interim accord on Palestinian self-rule on the West Bank. But it did cause unusual interest in the detailed maps of the region each of the leaders insisted, and it did delay the East Room signing ceremony by about 15 minutes.

Mr. Clinton learned of the hang-up during a plenary session with the major players in the signing — Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, King Hussein, Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat. Aides to Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat had been meeting in another room to hammer out final language on the timing of withdrawal of the Israeli Defense Force from the Hebron area.

"While the five-way discussion was going on," the official said, "Dennis Ross came in and informed the group that a snag had been hit and said that Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat needed to caucus. They and Clinton adjourned to the president's private dining room where the problem was laid out and the president stressed that it was very important, with the world watching out there, to get this problem resolved."

Mr. Clinton and Mr. Rabin

also met one-on-one to evaluate what steps could be taken to move the Syrian negotiations forward and "how to deal with some of the procedural issues that have prevented progress over the past couple of months."

In his 30-minute session with Mr. Arafat, Mr. Clinton emphasised to the Palestinian leader the need to end terrorism, both in terms of what the interim agreement provides and in terms of the perception with which the international community views a Palestinian entity.

The president noted, "Clinton went through them," the official noted, "and remarked on the degree of detail involved; it brought home to him how much work these guys had done."

While the official refused to give specifics on what caused the snag, he said it involved loosely-drafted language deliberately left in Taba in the rush to finish the agreement last week. "There was not really disagreement on the concept" of withdrawal, the official said.

"The wording was what they had to work their way through. My understanding is the wording was left unclear and they knew they would have to work through it."

Perhaps fittingly, Mr. Clinton had been enthralled to hear details of the negotiations in Taba which led up to the accord, and of the very meticulous discussions involved there. Mr. Rabin, the official said, "gave the press a fairly dramatic description of last minute snags and how they had been solved. At one point, the prime minister said he told (Foreign Minister Shimon) Peres, 'this thing done; the last thing I need to break the holiday (Jewish New Year) when I have to bring this to the Knesset.' It gave the president a sense of the atmosphere."

Mr. Clinton and Mr. Rabin

were a free-flowing discussion," the official said.

Most of the substantive discussion during the large meeting — the first time the leaders of the United States, Jordan, Egypt, Israel and the Palestinian Authority had been together in the same room — covered the situation in Bosnia, with Clinton's Muslim visitors outlining their view of the conflict between the mostly Muslim Bosnian government and Serb separatists.

"There was an extensive exchange of views," the official noted, "in terms of Muslim relations with the Europeans, with the United States, and their place in the world. It was quite meaty, with a lot of participation from all of the parties." Mr. Clinton gave his guests a "detailed rundown" of the current negotiations aimed at a ceasefire and a settlement.

The five agreed on the importance of Mideast regional economic development and the contribution to that goal that could be made by the Amman summit meeting next month. They agreed on the need to create a Mideast development bank and discussed European objections to current plants for its structure and capitalisation.

The luncheon which concluded the first day's working session, the official said, was "very animated and quite collegial." He said the five had developed a degree of comfort with one another which allowed good-natured laughter at the loopholes each side detected in the other's negotiating positions. "It was the kind of exchange," he said, "that couldn't have been imagined a year ago."

salute the bravery, the courage, moral (and) physical, the faith, the determination of those who have come together today not for the first time, Israelis and Palestinians, in this major step on the path to peace and reconciliation and driving away the shadows of darkness and despair and anger.

The official said Mr. Arafat's very presence with Mr. Clinton in the Oval Office "represents an evolution" in U.S. relations with Palestinians; although Mr. Arafat had been in the office last year with Mr. Clinton and Mr. Rabin, it marked the first time Mr. Clinton and Mr. Arafat met bilaterally. "It

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King: No losers in peace

(Continued from page 1)

selflessness.

"People cannot continue to live in ivory towers and watch more suffering, uncertainty and turmoil..."

"Egypt, with its weight and position in the hearts of all in our region, was there in times of war and was there to be the first to move to establish peace. The Palestinians, our brethren, have courageously upheld their responsibility towards themselves and the generations to come and all their neighbours who will give them all the support (they) can in the times ahead, for their success will be ours."

"I'd like to say how proud I am of this moment for both (Egyptian) President (Hosni) Mubarak," the King said of the signing of the Israel-PLO agreement, which he described as "another major step on the road to peace in our area, in our part of the world, the cradle of civilisations, the birthplace of the three faiths, Abrahamic religions, the land of the children of Abraham, and their children and their descendants."

"I would like to say how grateful we are for the consistency of thought we have received from our friends in the U.S., while listening to my colleagues speak I saw tears in the eyes for what they said and what I say come from their hearts. We'll never forget all that you've done for us and all that you will continue to do for us for we are partners in the cause of peace, and a better future for all peoples and certainly ours, a peace of the three, a peace that incorporates all that we believe in, democracy

cy, pluralism and respect for

human rights, a peace that gives the generations to come the opportunity to build and work together and share their experiences, having conquered the fear of each other that separated them over so many years.

"Both Arabs and Jews have suffered so much. Both come from the same origins, and over a long period of time, certainly my lifetime, there was much suffering and much loss, dear loss to us all."

Addressing president Clinton, the King said:

"These years when you have been at the helm of the great American nation have seen us coming closer together than we have ever been in terms of the trust, mutual respect, and... our relations, for we in Jordan are all friends of the U.S. of America. We have been comforted to know that you are with us through every moment in our endeavour to achieve peace, by your support and understanding, commitment, encouragement, and interest in that worthiest of causes. And I would recall your being with us, and Mr. Rabin and myself, the Jordanians and the Israelis, all our brethren in the areas of Aqaba and Eilat.

"When we saw the ratification of our peace treaty we will also remember the very moving coincidence, moving because... Mrs. Clinton (was) with you on her birthday that coincided with that day. That will remain in the minds of all of us and generations to come for all times. It has been a long way, it has been a long struggle but we

have been with the Jordanians and the Israelis, all our brethren in the areas of Aqaba and Eilat.

The meeting was attended

by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Marwan Qasem, His Royal Highness Prince Ali Ben Al Hussein, His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, Foreign Minister Abdul Karabati, Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abu Raghdeh, Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf and Jordanian Ambassador in Washington Fayed Tarawneh.

On Wednesday, King Hussein discussed with U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry the Jordanian armed forces' needs of modern military equipment and weapons.

Mr. Perry said the United States understands Jordan's needs, adding that some of these needs were under study by the U.S. Congress.

The King and Mr. Perry agreed that a high-level joint military meeting should be convened to conduct a comprehensive revision of Jordan's military requirements.

During his visit to the U.S. Defense Department, the King was quoted as saying that the Taba agreement between Israel and the Palestinians was bound to add more momentum to the peace process.

Asked to comment on the defection to Jordan last month of Iraqi General Hussein Kamel, the King said that Gen. Kamel and his party would stay in the Kingdom for the foreseeable future and would not go to any other country.

Mr. Perry was quoted as telling the press that Jordan's request for modern weapons was legitimate and the U.S. sought to work with Jordan in matters of mutual defence and are designed to ensure an Israeli military presence on the Golan Heights.

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Israelis said to seize Lebanon church land

SIDON (AP) — A Christian clergyman Friday accused Israeli troops of seeking to annex land on the Lebanese side of the border with Israel which belonged to his church.

Rev. Nader Abi Nader, a Maronite Catholic priest in Tyre, said church officials have protested the Israeli action to United Nations observers in South Lebanon who promised to look into it.

In a telephone interview from Tyre, some 40 kilometres south of Sidon, provincial capital of South Lebanon, Rev. Abi Nader said the Israelis had moved barbed wire that marked the Lebanese border in the western sector of the enclave they occupy in South Lebanon.

That, he said, put the land — some 10 hectares — in Israeli territory.

New wiring was being set up at a location near Baita in the western sector of an Israeli-occupied border enclave, he said.

Ten days ago, Rev. Abi Nader added, Israeli bulldozers began plowing olive groves that had been damaged by suspected arsonists two months earlier.

"There are fears of takeover and then annexation" of the land, he told the Associated Press.

The land belongs to the Maronite bishopric of Tyre. Bishop Maroun Sader has

gone to the border enclave, known as the "security zone," to try to get the Israelis out, said Rev. Nader.

The United Nations Interim Force In Lebanon, which has positions in the area, said it was investigating the claim.

There was no immediate comment from Israel.

The Tyre bishop was quoted Friday by the independent Beirut newspaper Al Nahar as saying the church had complained to U.N. authorities in the south, "for the sake of preserving the ownership of the property by all legal and international means."

Lebanese military sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it was too early to determine if the Israelis wanted to annex the land or were just clearing the burned trees to possibly set up a new military base.

Lebanon has repeatedly accused Israel of seeking to redraw the border to seize water resources located within the security zone.

Israel has denied the accusations, claiming it has no territorial ambitions in Lebanon.

It says the buffer it created

in 1985 on some 1,100 square kilometres of Lebanese territory was intended to prevent cross-border attacks on Israel.

Clinton: Israel fully committed to accord

(Continued from page 1)

dreams, we agreed about the realities."

"I think the best solution, and I am saying it with full respect to Chairman Arafat, will be a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation which would enable all Palestinians to be together

and enable us to have those parts of the land important to our security demilitarised."

Asked if there was any

reality to Mr. Arafat's dream of a Palestinian state, Mr. Peres said: "I think this is part of his dream, (but) since we've spent so much time together, I know he too is convinced the real solution is a Jordanian-Palestinian framework reality, and this is what will happen in my judgement."

After the signing of the transfer accord at the White House, Mr. Arafat, President Clinton and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, along with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and King Hussein, issued a statement calling on Syria and Lebanon to join a comprehensive Middle East peace.

They said early conclusion of peace treaties between Israel and both Syria and Lebanon "would be key steps toward their common goal of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region."

But Mr. Peres told CBS he was not confident Syria and Lebanon would agree to comprehensive peace.

He said their "idea to conduct negotiations only between military people is a mistake. The idea to conduct the agenda just around the security issue..." is another mistake.

Mr. Rabin said Friday,

Israel intends to pull out of six West Bank towns by the end of the year, but cannot

commit to a firm date for completing withdrawal.

The pace of troop withdrawal depends on the construction of bypass roads for Jewish settlers, Mr. Rabin told Israel army radio in an interview from Washington.

"In the wording (of the agreement), there is no commitment although it is our intention" to complete withdrawal by 1995, Mr. Rabin said.

Mr. Rabin's remarks reflected a compromise he

worked out with Mr. Arafat just before the signing of their agreement.

"Arafat first demanded that Israel commit to a troop pullback from the West Bank towns of Jenin, Nablus, Tulkarem, Kalkiyya, Ramallah and Bethlehem by the end of December, army radio said."

Mr. Rabin refused to set such a deadline, telling Mr. Arafat all depended on how quickly settlers bypass roads can be built around Bethlehem and Ramallah. Israel has said it hoped to complete the paving by the end of the year.

"I have a commitment to the settlers not to pull out of Ramallah and Bethlehem before there is an appropriate solution for their travel," Mr. Rabin said on army radio.

In a compromise, the two leaders settled for an Israeli "intention" to withdraw from the six towns by the end of the year.

The agreement already stipulates that Israel has until March 30 to redeploy in the seventh city, Hebron, where 450 Jewish settlers live among 120,000 Palestinians.

The starting date for a troop pullback remained unclear Friday.

Mr. Arafat said Thursday night that the withdrawal would start 10 after the signing ceremony, or around Oct. 8.

However, Israeli officials have said the two sides had not yet agreed on a starting date for a troop withdrawal.

Palestinian opponents of the PLO-Israel accord staged sit-ins in Lebanon on Friday.

Fifty Palestinian members of popular committees which run refugee camps in the Tyre region of South Lebanon had held a peaceful protest strike outside the offices of U.N. peacekeepers in the port city.

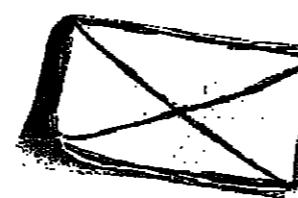
They also handed a U.N. peacekeeper a message addressed to U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali demanding the Tabi accord.

Iran denounced the accord saying Mr. Arafat had betrayed his people and sold out to the Jewish state.

Mr. Yazdi, who was addressing the Friday prayers at Tehran University, said the deal "was doomed in advance, for it can solve nothing" and "each of its clauses represents a concession to the Israelis."

Deal with Syria unlikely in 1996, Rabin is told

The Jerusalem Post



Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan Friday opens the Amman Baccalaureate School's third annual festival. The one-day festival included a display of items produced by charitable and handicraft centres, musical performances, a show of traditional dresses by school students and a raffle. Revenues from the event will go to the Jordan National Red Crescent Society's branch in Ma'an. Taking part in the festival were students from the Amman Baccalaureate School, disabled children from Al Hussein Society, and members of the Young Women's Muslim Association and Jordan's branch of the Regional Centre for the Welfare of the Blind (Petra photo)

Three people die in road accidents

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Three people, including a police officer, were killed and 13 were injured over the weekend, in three separate road accidents, according to Civil Defence Department (CDD) reports.

On Thursday in Hamra town in Mafrak, two people were killed and two more were seriously injured in a road collision on the Mafrak-Safawi highway, the reports said.

According to the report, the accident, which

occurred in the evening, involved a truck and a vehicle bearing Sandi tags. The report cited no details but identified the victims as Falah Salem, 23, and Mohammad Awad, the police officer, both Jordanians.

Also on Thursday in Kafarbil town in Irbid, a 43-year-old man was killed in a road accident, the reports said.

Abdul Hamid Ahmad was killed instantly when the tractor he was driving rolled over and crushed him to death, the report said.

In Karak, 11 people in

Taybeh town of Karak were injured when the bus they were riding in rolled over, CDD reports said.

The report said that the driver of the bus, Ali J.B., 50, was speeding and lost control of the vehicle.

Hospital officials at

Karak Government Hospital and Prince Ali Bin Hussein Hospital where the injured were taken told the Jordan Times Friday that all casualties suffered bruises and fractures and were treated and released the same evening.

UNRWA labour panels demand amendment to gag rule

By Ghada Alali
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Labour committees at the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) have demanded that the agency repeal an article in its regulations which allows for imposing severe punishment on employees who speak to the press without authorisation, sources said.

This demand has come in light of the agency's decision to fire the former dean of the Educational Sciences Faculty Izzeddin Mansasrah for publicly criticising UNRWA for its decision to shut down the faculty.

The agency postponed for one year the closure of the college after Dr. Mansasrah's protest, but also fired the former dean after warning him that he should not talk to the press in violation of its regulations.

A labour committee representative said that some of the agency's regulations were made about 40 years ago, and it is time UNRWA considered amending those rules.

"We are living a different age... we should not be punished for expressing ourselves," he said.

But he said that it was unlikely that UNRWA will heed this demand in light of recent remarks by senior

UNRWA's stand that employees should abide by regulations has received the support of a senior UNRWA employee, writer Zulaikha Abu Rishbeh, who argued that Dr. Mansasrah violated the agency's regulation and should have followed the contract which he had signed when he joined UNRWA.

"Even though the credit for saving the faculty from closure this year goes to Dr. Mansasrah, and despite our sympathy with him as a colleague and a friend... he did violate the agency's regulations that ban any employee from talking about the agency and harming its interests or its reputation in the press," Ms. Abu Rishbeh said in an article published Al Rai Arabic daily Friday.

Ms. Abu Rishbeh added that all employees signed contracts with the agency, and accepted to abide by its regulations no matter how anachronistic or unfair they are.

He said that the official announced that a special committee will visit Jordan in October to study the work conditions and the employees demands.

The workers earlier this month staged two sit-ins to press their demands and threatened an open strike if the agency does not meet their demands.

She said many people share the view that Dr. Mansasrah rushed to the press and instigated it against the agency so that they can help his cause even though his case was a simple one that could have been resolved in court.

"...the first thing we had expected from (Dr. Mansasrah) is exploring the opportunities made available by democracy in a country that is in the process of building it; resorting to court and not escalating the case at the expense of other major issues whose importance and significance to the Palestinian people... is something of which we are all aware," said Ms. Abu Rishbeh.

Meanwhile, UNRWA employees are optimistic that the agency would meet some of their other demands concerning work conditions at the agency, a labour committee source said.

He said a senior Vienna-based UNRWA official has promised serious consideration of the workers' demands for better terms of end of service compensation and salary increases.

He said that the official announced that a special committee will visit Jordan in October to study the work conditions and the employees demands.

The workers earlier this month staged two sit-ins to press their demands and threatened an open strike if the agency does not meet their demands.

Intellectual property rights group to set up regional patent office

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Arab Society for the Protection of Intellectual Property (ASPIP) on Friday decided to establish an Arab regional patent office and set up a masters degree course in intellectual property rights (IPR) at a university affiliated with the Arab League.

The decisions were taken at an ASPIP general meeting, which also reelected Talal Abu Ghazaleh, chief executive of a pan-Arab firm with the same name, as president of the ASPIP.

Work will start soon on setting up the Arab regional patent by 1996. The masters degree course in IPR will be established at a university in Alexandria, Egypt, affiliated with the Arab League.

The ASPIP meanwhile also continued special

workshops/training courses in IPR as part of its annual meeting in Amman, the first time the gathering is being held in Jordan.

The focus of the meeting is a review of the laws and regulations pertaining to protection of IPR — copyrights, patents and trademarks — in the Arab World.

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Pressure groups seek to halt revamping of foreign labour market, says ministry

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Labour is coming under pressure from local groups to halt the revamping of the foreign labour market situation in the country since the Cabinet instructed the authorities to correct the problem, ministry Secretary General Saleh Tarawneh said Friday.

Minister of Labour Abdul Shafiq last month said nearly 260,000 non-Jordanians are working in the Kingdom of whom only 42,000 hold valid work permits.

Since the government issued its Oct. 25 deadline for 20,000 non-Jordanians to be issued permits.

Stressing that after the deadline the government

will not resort to collective deportation, Mr. Tarawneh said that instead, each case will be studied separately.

Mr. Tarawneh said the government's moves are in line with agreements it had concluded with Arab countries, particularly Egypt.

Those agreements require a non-Jordanian to obtain a work permit through the appropriate channels before coming to Jordan, Mr. Tarawneh said.

Any infringement on the Cabinet's instructions, either on the part of employers or non-Jordanian workers, would be a violation of the Jordanian Labour Law, he warned.

He said any employer who violates these rules will face penalties.

Mr. Tarawneh said that the non-Jordanians employed in jobs that could be held by citizens not only aggravates the unemployment problem, but causes losses to the state treasury because most of these foreign labourers consume basic food supplies subsidised by the state and they transfer more than \$100 million annually to their home countries.

According to the government instructions non-Jordanians will not be permitted to be employed in the medical, engineering,

administrative, financial, educational, and services sectors, nor as drivers, guards, office messengers or mechanics.

Mr. Tarawneh told the Jordan Times that in certain employment sectors, such as university faculties, non-Jordanians are issued work permits when there sufficient qualified staff are unavailable.

Mr. Tarawneh said the Jordanian law empowers the ministry to deport a non-Jordanian working illegally, but he again stressed that each case will be processed separately after the Oct. 25 deadline.

JWU to provide free court representation, legal advice to disadvantaged women

By Lola Keilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Legal consultation and court representation will be provided for women in different parts of the Kingdom, as part of the Jordanian Women's Union (JWWU) legal awareness programme, according to JWU President Asma Khader.

Starting next week, some Jordanian lawyers will volunteer a few hours a week to meet with and give free legal advice to women at the lawyers' own offices, said Ms. Khader, herself an attorney.

This type of free court representation is the first

organised service of its kind to be offered in Jordan, and it will only be provided to indigent women, said Ms. Khader.

Many of these women's legal rights are violated because they cannot afford a lawyer, said Sawsan Ishaq, who offers legal consultation at JWU legal advice centres.

The volunteer lawyers will represent the women in all types of legal cases, including crime cases, said Ms. Khader.

"Society and families abandon and discriminate against a woman if she is accused of committing a criminal act; nobody is

willing to support her, financially or morally" she said in explaining the need for the service.

She added that the legal awareness programme also includes a free 20-hour course, consisting of 10 lectures on legal rights over an unspecified period of time for interested groups of women, according to Ms. Khader.

The campaign also provides legal consultation over the telephone for women who prefer anonymity and who are unable to go to the lawyers' offices.

The new legal consultation and court representa-

tion services are complementary to the JWU's Legal and Social Consultation Centres at the Baqa'a Camp and at Jabal Hussein.

The reason for the new move to have lawyers give free consultation at their offices is because most of the women who would benefit from this service prefer to discuss their legal problems in the privacy of an isolated office, rather than at the centre which is more public and exposed, Ms. Khader said.

Ms. Khader added that some male lawyers have also volunteered their services to the programme.

Zarqa women learning how to decide their political roles

By Beatrix Immenkamp
Special to the Jordan Times

Zarqa — Participants in a two-day workshop on "Promoting women's active participation in political decision making" came away feeling that women should seek more opportunities to share their views on women's role in politics in Jordan and to teach women certain personal skills that would strengthen their ability to take on an active political role, according to Josi Salem-Pickartz, the driving force behind the workshop and main organiser of the event.

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North said to have missiles near border with S. Korea

SEOUL (Agencies) — North Korea has deployed hundreds of long-range missiles capable of carrying nuclear or chemical warheads near the border with South Korea, the South's air force chief of staff said Friday.

General Kim Hong-Nae told parliament's Defence Committee the Communist North posed a serious military threat to the South by deploying more than 600 Frog rockets and Scud missiles.

It was not clear from the general's remarks whether the deployment was a recent development.

The South Korean capital Seoul is within range of Frog rockets while Scud missiles could reach every corner of the south, he said.

"Should the North attack (the South) with the missiles loaded with nuclear or chemical warheads, it would have serious military consequences," Gen. Kim told the committee.

But Gen. Kim said his air force had taken steps to cope with any North Korean attack, including plans to strike the North's tactical ballistic missile bases, command posts and communications facilities.

He said combined South Korea-U.S. forces were using three satellites to monitor North Korea and monthly exercises were conducted as part of the wariness measures.

North Korea has strengthened its already-massive

military equipment and facilities, most of them underground, according to the South Korean Defence Ministry.

The ministry said the North had successfully test-fired a Rodong-1 missile with a range of 1,000 kilometres and was developing the Daepodong-1 and 2 missiles capable of striking major targets in north East Asia, including Japan. It also maintains production of chemical weapons.

About 655,000 South Korean troops, bolstered by some 37,000 U.S. forces, face the North's 1,040,000-strong army across the world's last cold war border which was set up at the end of the 1950-53 Korean War.

South Korea's foreign minister appealed Thursday to the North to embrace human rights and abandon nuclear weapons aspirations. The comments drew a sharp rebuttal from North Korea.

"My government strongly believes that the people in North Korea, as our kindred, should enjoy the fundamental human rights to which all of us are entitled," South Korean Foreign Minister Gong Ro-yung said.

Mr. Gong told the U.N. General Assembly his country was particularly concerned about families divided by the 1950-53 Korean War.

Ten million Koreans were separated from their families during the war, many

never to hear from their relatives again because contact was prohibited between the Koreas, he said.

"It is high time for the community of nations, particularly the United Nations, to render their assistance and do their part for these divided families to at least hear from each other until they are finally united," Mr. Gong said.

Mr. Gong also urged North Korea to abide by the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and its nuclear pact with the United States.

The North Korean nuclear issue remains a paramount security concern for north East Asia and the world," Mr. Gong said earlier.

Mr. Gong spoke as North and South Korea held talks on food aid for the flood-stricken North. In a historic first for the two Koreas, the South agreed in June to provide its poor neighbour with 150,000 tons of rice.

In a swipe at France, which resumed nuclear testing in the South Pacific this fall, Mr. Gong urged "those nations with future plans for testing to cancel them without delay."

Mr. Gong also announced that South Korea will impose a one-year moratorium on exports of anti-personnel land mines.

Human rights organisations are campaigning for a global ban on land mines, which, according to the United Nations, kill or maim more than 20,000 civilians a year.

"distortions," defending his country's human rights record and saying North Korea had drawn international condemnation over its suspected nuclear weapons programme.

Under the 1994 agreement, North Korea said it would shut down its nuclear programme, which is suspected of trying to produce nuclear weapons.

"Maintaining peace and stability on the Korean peninsula is not just an issue affecting 70 million Koreans, but also a strategic issue with critical implications for the north East Asia region and the world at large," Mr. Gong said earlier.

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S. Korean students clash with police; thousands march in support

SEOUL (AP) — Hundreds of students in Seoul clashed with police and some 5,000 more marched and rallied in support Thursday in continuing violence to demand punishment for two former presidents.

The protest came a day before the National Assembly was to vote on an opposition party bill that would open the way to prosecute ex-Presidents Chun Doo-Hwan and Roh Tae-Woo for their alleged roles in the deaths of more than 200 civilians 15 years ago.

As some 200 students Thursday chanted and sang encouragement, their leaders hurled firebombs at riot police in front of Kunkook University.

"Punish the butchers," they chanted. Police fired dozens of volleys of tear gas to push the students back. Flickering fire from the

Molotov cocktails dotted the street.

One student suffered burns on his face when a firebomb hit a nearby tree and exploded. But with both sides keeping their distance, no other injuries were reported.

Students used 1.5-metre (5-foot-) long metal pipes to bang on the asphalt to the beat of the incessant drums.

Some 600 more students at three other universities in Seoul also clashed violently with police.

About 1,000 more students held a peaceful candlelight march in another part of Seoul, and 3,000 others held rallies at their campuses.

Some 1,000 students also marched in downtown Kwangju, some 270 kilometres south of Seoul, where more than 200 people were killed and thou-

sands more injured during a crackdown on a pro-democracy uprising in May 1980.

Students have vowed more protests if the bill does not pass.

An umbrella group of student councils said that 80 out of some 120 four-year universities nationwide will take part in a two-day boycott of classes to increase pressure.

Instead of going to classes Friday and Saturday, they have called for mass rallies and demonstrations. Some 15,000 police have been deployed in Seoul, and security heightened at the legislature and other government buildings.

Dozens more students are on a week-long hunger strike, and thousands of teachers and professors have signed petitions demanding a special law be enacted.

COLOMBO (R) — Tamil guerrillas killed 22 Sri Lankan policemen in an apparent bid to undercut an expected government offensive after the army warned civilians to stay away from rebel bases, military sources said Friday.

An army spokesman confirmed the attack on the Kalkudah police post in the eastern district of Batticaloa, saying his information indicated 15 policemen were killed but adding that the death toll could rise.

"Terrorists came in large numbers," he told Reuters. "We sent reinforcements and the police post is now back in our hands. A clearing operation is going on."

The attack by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels, who are fighting for an independent homeland for minority Tamils in the island's north and east, began late Thursday night and lasted till the early hours of Friday, military sources said.

Analysts said the LTTE attack appeared to part of its campaign to pin down the eastern garrisons to prevent them from joining a major offensive on the Jaffna peninsula, expected to be launched before the start of October monsoon rains.

It also followed what diplomats said may have

been a signal from the army Thursday that the war was hotting up in Jaffna.

Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe, the chief military spokesman, told a news conference Thursday that the army was planning to intensify its attacks on rebel bases in Jaffna.

Brig. Munasinghe also conceded that air force planes may have killed 70 people in last week's bombings in Jaffna and asked civilians to keep away from Tamil Tiger bases to avoid future casualties.

The London-based human rights group Amnesty International said Monday that some 800,000 civilians were at risk of being caught in the crossfire between the LTTE and the army.

"We reiterate one thing in appeals made hereto by us to civilians in Jaffna, please keep away from LTTE bases, processions and ceremonies," Brig. Munasinghe said.

"We are attacking the LTTE. We have to do that. Therefore, we are only requesting very kindly to the civilians, kindly keep away," he warned.

Brig. Munasinghe said the large civilian presence was hampering army operations in the region where more than 50,000 people have been killed in the 12-year-old war.

"It looks more and more remote with each new day," said a senior diplomat Thursday. "The campaign is running out of time."

Indian Congress wants April elections

NEW DELHI (R) — India's Election Commission said Thursday after a meeting with the country's political parties that the ruling Congress Party wanted the next parliamentary elections to be held in the second half of April.

Elections must be held by mid-1996 and a new lower house of parliament must be in place by July 8.

The (ruling) Indian National Congress and the (opposition) Janata Party wanted the poll to be held sometime in the second half of April, 1996," the Election Commission said in a statement after the all-party meeting on elections.

But Chief Election Commissioner T.N. Seshan told a news conference that the commission had the constitutional power to hold elections any time after Jan. 7, marking six months from the last possible date for a new parliament to be constituted.

The Election Commission would consider factors like annual school examinations before deciding on the date, Mr. Seshan said.

India is scheduled to hold the World Cup Cricket Championship in February and March and Election Commission officials have said they would consider the implications of the tournament.

Doubt had been expressed over an April date because it was thought that the army's widely-expected offensive on the LTTE bases could be running out of time as imminent October rains may bog down the conventional army against the fleet-footed guerrillas.

"It looks more and more remote with each new day," said a senior diplomat Thursday. "The campaign is running out of time."



Shirley Baker, sister of O.J. Simpson, talks to the press at the Criminal Courts building in Los Angeles. Along with Mrs. Baker are (from left) Simpson's sister, Carmelita Durio; Benny Baker, Mrs. Baker's husband; Eunice, Simpson's mother, in wheelchair; Arnelle, daughter of Simpson, and Jason, Simpson's son (AFP photo)

Simpson jury to get case after passionate arguments

LOS ANGELES (R) — The jury in the "trial of the century" of star athlete O.J. Simpson, which has gripped television audiences around the world, was due to get the case Friday after impassioned closing arguments by both sides.

Simpson's lead defence attorney Johnnie Cochran, in an appeal to the panel of nine blacks, two whites and one Hispanic which sounded as much like the exhortations of an Evangelist as the reasoned arguments of a lawyer, said Thursday they must find the athletic legend not guilty.

Mr. Cochran closed out his discourse uttering the same rhyming couplet he started with — "if it doesn't fit, you must acquit" — a reference not only to the bulk of the prosecution's evidence but to its most embarrassing moment, when Simpson was asked to put on the bloody evidence gloves and appeared to struggle to do so.

Summoning up all the fire and brimstone of a revival preacher, Mr. Cochran Thursday detailed what he said was a vast conspiracy led by a racist rogue cop to frame Simpson for a crime he did not commit.

He told the mostly black jury they could strike a blow against racism and police corruption by returning a not guilty verdict. "Stop this cover-up" Mr. Cochran implored.

But outside the courtroom, Fred Goldman, the father of murder victim Ron Goldman, exploded with anger at Mr. Cochran. "He suggests... that it's because of racism we should put aside all other thoughts, all other reason, and set his murdering client free," Mr. Goldman said. "He's a sick man."

In a summation laced with references to the U.S. Constitution, the Magna Carta and the Bible, Mr. Cochran accused police of

implicating Simpson in "a rush to judgment." At the centre of the alleged plot, Mr. Cochran placed now-retired detective Mark Fuhrman, whom he likened to Adolf Hitler and called a "lying, perjuring, genocidal racist."

Mr. Cochran reminded jurors that the white detective lied under oath when he said he had not uttered the racial epithet "nigger" in the past 10 years, only to be contradicted by excerpts of taped interviews with an aspiring screenwriter.

Mr. Cochran went a step further, accusing Mr. Fuhrman of planting the bloody glove he testified to finding at Simpson's estate, and of stamping a bloody shoe print in Simpson's Ford Bronco. He said the conspiracy had encompassed other officials.

Mr. Cochran urged jurors to throw out all of the crucial prosecution evidence he says was tainted by conspiracy, which would effectively gut the state's case. "We believe that you will do the right thing and find this man not guilty."

As he ended his nationally televised summation, Mr. Cochran challenged Ms. Clark to answer 15 questions he said proved "reasonable doubt" of Simpson's guilt.

And in a final appeal, Mr. Cochran stood in front of a family portrait and intoned: "Someone has taken these children's mother. I hope your decision doesn't take their father."

Simpson faces up to life in prison if convicted.

Chinese party purges former Beijing chief; approves five-year plan

BEIJING (AP) — China's Communist Party leaders purged a powerful colleague for embezzling \$35 million in public funds.

Mr. Chen, who was promoted from mayor to Beijing party secretary in 1992, resigned soon after.

In a communiqué released at the end of a closed-door, four-day meeting, the Central Committee said Mr. Chen "seriously neglected his duty and held a grave responsibility" for Wang's wrongdoings.

The committee said Mr. Chen also "led a dissolute, extravagant life, abused his power to seek illegal interests for his relatives and accepted valuable gifts for his own use.... His mistakes are serious."

The committee statement, summarised by the official Xinhua News Agency, said that the party's investigation into Mr. Chen would continue but made no mention of a criminal investigation.

A party investigator told reporters several months ago that officials were considering handing Mr. Chen over to police.

The party traditionally punishes its members internally and subjecting Mr. Chen to legal prosecution would have been a strong statement of determination to root out endemic corruption. Its failure to do so bolstered the belief that his real mistake was opposing party General Secretary Jiang Zemin's bid to succeed Mr.

Deng.

The national television news showed the Central Committee members gathered in a hotel auditorium decorated with red flags and a hammer and sickle, raising their right arms to approve the communiqué.

Mr. Chen was not shown on screen and it was not known if he attended.

The committee did not reveal details of Mr. Chen's alleged corruption. Mr. Wang allegedly spent the funds he embezzled on his relatives, friends and mistresses. The party investigator said officials were trying to sort out which funds were stolen by Mr. Wang and which by Mr. Chen.

In other actions, the Central Committee approved a five-year plan to guide China's economy through the last years of the century.

The communiqué said the plan will see China meet the goal set by senior leader Deng Xiaoping in 1980 of quadrupling gross national product by the year 2000.

"Poverty will be basically eliminated (and) the people's life will reach a relatively comfortable standard," the communiqué said.

Gambia bans skin-bleaching in civil service

BANJUL (R) — Military leaders in the west African state of Gambia have banned the practice of skin-bleaching in the civil service, threatening disciplinary action against anyone found indulging in the practice. A government memo, which denounced skin-bleaching on health grounds, said there had been an upsurge in the practice, particularly among women civil servants. "These ladies are expected to set a better example: particularly those in the health and education sectors," according to the circular, which was sent to all heads of ministries and government departments. The armed forces Provisional Ruling Council condemned the practice shortly after it seized power in July 1994. "At its last meeting, council expressed concern that although skin bleaching had noticeably declined, there is now increasing evidence of the practice," the memo, from the office of military leader Yahya Jammeh, said. A range of skin lightening products are available across west Africa but doctors advise against using them on the grounds that they can damage the skin. The memo did not specify what disciplinary action would be taken.

Missing tortoise turns up after 35 years

LYDE, England (AFP) — Thirty-five years after Chester disappeared from his master's back garden, the escaped tortoise has turned up no more than metres from his original home. Chester was discovered last week ambling along a verge in this central English village by local resident Flossie Masshader, who cleaned him up and set out to track down his owner. Malcolm Edwards, 44, who still lives in his boyhood home 150 yards from where Chester was found, recognised his long lost pet immediately because of the white paint Mark his father had put on the shell in 1960 to make the creature easier to spot in the grass. Edwards was eight years old when Chester joined the family menagerie of rabbits, an owl, a magpie and goldfish. George Cooper, the local vet who examined Chester after his reappearance, said it was perfectly feasible the tortoise could have survived in local woodland all those years. "He would have had food in abundance, including dandelions, fruit, grass and vegetables," he told journalists. Edwards said he hoped Chester "might decide to stay a little longer this time."

Man jailed for abusing cow

COLOMBO (AP) — A suburban court in the capital has sentenced a man for having sexual relations with a cow, a police official said. Weerasangili Siriwardhana, 30, a bachelor who earned his living as a daily wager, was given a suspended sentence of

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History made again

THE WHITE House was the scene Thursday of yet another historic peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians. Two years earlier the first handshake between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian Leader Yasser Arafat at the same place brought with it the first accord ever between the two warring peoples as represented in the Declaration of Principles that was to govern their future talks. This time, there was a broad agreement on the implementation of the second stage of the accord spelling out an expanded Palestinian control over West Bank cities and towns.

The ceremony, which was presided over by President Bill Clinton, was witnessed by key regional and world leaders whose presence signalled a broad international support for the Mideast peace process. It was no accident therefore that the agreement was also signed and witnessed by Mr. Clinton, His Majesty King Hussein, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev and last but not least Norwegian Foreign Minister Bjoern Godal, whose capital city Oslo hosted the breakthrough between the PLO and Israel two years ago.

The latest accord may have indeed brought closer the day when "the clash of arms will be banished from God's holy land," as the U.S. president remarked on the occasion, or brought nearer the poet's dream as the Israeli prime minister poignantly observed, or has demonstrated that the reconciliation effort has become irreversible as Chairman Arafat rightly pointed out. Still, the biggest challenge to all that has been painstakingly achieved is what King Hussein described in his remarks at the ceremony as the real challenge to the remaining leaders in the Middle East "to demonstrate courage, both moral and physical, to show what responsibility means by joining the peace camp." No doubt His Majesty had Syrian President Hafez Al Assad uppermost on his mind when he called on the other parties in the region to join the campaign for peace.

Indeed King Hussein was not alone in alluding to the unfinished business in the region. Mr. Clinton expressed the hope that Damascus and Beirut would soon make their presence and role more visible. President Mubarak was equally emphatic when he said that the mission of building peace cannot be fulfilled until similar progress is attained on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. So were Chairman Arafat and Prime Minister Rabin. As a matter of fact the entire international community is unanimous on the urgent need for a comprehensive settlement.

The feat that was accomplished Thursday just like all the other successes on the peace front will remain spoiled and forever incomplete unless and until Syria and Lebanon have firmly joined in. This indispensable role cannot be expected to be realised on a unilateral basis, however. Much more is still expected from Israel in order to bring Damascus on board. But this does not make the challenge to the Syrian leadership any easier. The Syrians can still undertake bolder moves towards the goal of sealing lasting and comprehensive peace in the region.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

MAHMOUD RIMAWI, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, has urged Iraq to follow France's advice and accept U.N. Security Council resolution 986 on the sale of limited amounts of oil under U.N. supervision for the purchase of food and medicine. The writer said that the majority of Iraqis are nearing starvation as a result of the sanctions. By selling oil, Iraq will be partially relieved and its isolation from the rest of the world will begin to end. But what is more important, is that the oil revenue will rescue the lives of the innocent people, he said. The writer said that the Iraqi government had been subjected to much humiliation through the series of U.N. resolutions and sanctions that have effectively encroached on its sovereignty and thus the argument that the provisions of U.N. deal should be rejected for sovereignty concerns is invalid.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour urged the concerned authorities to be brave enough and enforce the law on those who continually contaminate water, soil and air and pollute the environment. Mohammad Daoud said that a recent report by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation has revealed that 80 per cent of the factories in Jordan have failed to abide by the regulations concerning the treatment of the wastewater emerging from their installations. With total disregard to the rules concerning measures to safeguard the environment, these factories have been causing direct danger to the public, said the writer. It is true that these factories are producing commodities that are badly needed by the local communities, but this is no justification for their continued mal-practices, he added. If the concerned authorities cannot close these factories, then the least they can do is to impose heavy financial penalties on the law and use the revenue to deal with the consequences of the pollution, suggested the writer.

Jordanian Perspective

A first step towards Palestinian statehood

By Dr. Musa Keilani

THE AGREEMENT that Israeli and Palestinian leaders signed in Washington on Thursday on the finer details of interim self-rule in the West Bank has clearly established that the Arab-Israeli peace process is irreversible. The agreement also confounded assumptions among the hard-liners on the Arab side that the 1993 declaration of principles (DoP) signed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel was an Israeli ploy to end the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

For all practical and technical purposes, the accord that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin signed on Thursday is the first step towards Palestinian statehood. But it is indeed an arduous way that lies ahead. Extremists on both sides are bent upon wrecking the entire process, as we see from the reactions from the Israeli right-wing and the Damascus-based Palestinian groups to the self-rule agreement. The other side of the coin is the commitment that both Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat have displayed by pressing ahead with the negotiations despite the spasms of violence and not letting the hardliners have their way.

Indeed, the declaration of principles is one year behind schedule, but then it would have been naive on anyone's part to have expected an easy process of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, given the complexity of the issues before them.

For us in Jordan, the signing ceremony in Washington had an additional significance: It substantiated Jordan's argument that the Kingdom, by virtue of its own peace treaty with Israel, is in a much better position to positively

influence the course of the peace process. Upon Mr. Arafat's request, His Majesty King Hussein intervened with Mr. Rabin whenever the going got too tough for the Palestinians in the negotiations, particularly over the status of Hebron. To a large extent, it was the behind-the-scenes Jordanian intervention that saved the day since Mr. Rabin understood the Palestinian concerns better when they were put to him by King Hussein. For once, we also think, Mr. Arafat realised the key role Jordan played and would continue to play in the peace process. At least that is the message we got from his visit to Jordan the day after the initialising of the Taba accord and his public expressions of appreciation for the Jordanian role.

Definitely we would have liked to see Israel relinquishing its control over Hebron just as all West Bank towns, but it was not a straightforward cut and deal question. Much difficult as it is to acknowledge, the fact remains that the 450 or so settlers in the heart of Hebron are a problem for Mr. Rabin as much as it is for Mr. Arafat. And the Israeli prime minister has made no secret of his view that it is absurd to have thousands of Israeli soldiers to protect the 450, who live among 120,000 Palestinians. It is, of course, clear that Mr. Rabin understands that the settlers have to leave Hebron. It is only a matter of methods and means to ensure their peaceful departure from the town.

Barring the sore point over Hebron, it is unlikely that the self-rule agreement could have been any different from the way it was formulated in the last 16 months and signed in Washington on Thursday.

The next step is its implementation. While we congrat-

ulate our Palestinian brethren for having achieved the deal, we cannot but raise some concerns. For one thing, the first reflection of the agreement should be a qualitative change in the lives of the Palestinians living in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. That is where the international community has to step in with a firm commitment to help Mr. Arafat prove to the sceptics that the course he opted for was the best indeed. In this context, it was heartening to note President Clinton and other leaders gathered in Washington on Thursday issue a joint declaration pledging help for the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). We hope the pledge would not remain simply a piece of paper. The snags in the delivery of assistance to the PNA should be removed once and for all. Let us not forget that the PNA is assuming responsibilities of running the lives of another two million people in the West Bank and any failure on its part to deliver the promises of a better life to the Palestinians would not bode well for the positive continuation of the peace process.

At the same time, it is not simply enough for the PNA to concern itself with administering self-rule. It has to ensure democracy, political pluralism and respect for human rights in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Again, the Palestinians have a fine example to follow just across the river — Jordan, which has adopted these key features of a civilised society as a way of life for itself. We stand ready to extend whatever help we could to the Palestinians, but it is essentially for the PNA to convince itself that democracy, with all that it entails, is the best way of life everyone around.

Identity and polarisation in Jordanian society

By Laurie Brand

IDENTITY IS a complex and ever-evolving phenomenon. Each one of us counts numerous aspects or constituent parts to our individual identities: profession, sex, religion, ethnicity, nationality, and so on. For any given person, the most important constituent part of his/her identity may shift or change over time, depending upon developments at home, at the office, in the economy, or on the political front. The challenge to the student of identity is to understand what factors lead to the emergence of one factor or set of factors as the primary determinants of a person's sense of identity at a particular point in time.

Over the past few years Jordanian society has experienced a number of serious economic and political developments. The beginning of political liberalisation in 1989, the second Gulf war and its fallout, economic crisis and policies aimed at reducing the role of the state, the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli peace accord followed by the Jordanian-Israeli accord — all have had a deep and, in some cases, disorienting impact. Given the tremendous changes and challenges involved, it could not easily have been otherwise. Such momentous developments and the uncertain future they portend create anxieties and fears. Strong emotions of this type are often expressed in the form of dissatisfaction or anger with an identifiable "other" in society.

Who and along what lines this "Other" is constructed will vary from society to society, but there is little question that in Jordan the dividing line is most often drawn between citizens of Palestinian origin and East Bank Jordanians. While scholarship on Jordan has greatly increased in the last few years, to date, no study has been published exploring the development of the sense of Jordanian identity over the years, nor of the tensions that exist between the two groups in the Kingdom. It is for that reason that the study recently published by Jordan University's Centre for Strategic Studies is so timely and important. A field survey, which was the first part of the project, documents publicly for the first time the existence of these tensions and the reasons expressed on both sides for them. For those who have long felt, or felt victim of, such tensions, the results will not be surprising. But that was not the point of the study. The goal of the study was to provide sound field research — as opposed to continuing speculation or polemic — to underpin both future studies of the problem and to open the door for suggestions of potential solutions.

The existence of two (or more) communal groups in a country need not be a source of weakness. While one may point to a number

M. KAHIL



THE WEEK IN PRINT

Oslo II opens a new promising but equally difficult chapter in Mideast

By Elia Nasrallah

JORDANIAN DAILIES last week gave prominence to the conclusion of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement on expanding the Palestinian self-rule areas as well as Libya's continued expulsion of Palestinians and a host of local topics.

Halting the Palestine-Israel agreement, which was signed in Washington Thursday, Al Ra'i daily said that a new chapter in the Palestine-Israel peace has been opened. The paper expressed the Arab people's hope that the agreement will pave the way for the restoration of all the Palestinian people's rights and the emergence of the independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. The paper said that it is also hoped that the agreement would lead to the achievement of a comprehensive peace on all the Israeli-Arab tracks.

Writing in Al Ra'i under the title of "Arafat's success," columnist Fahed Al Fanek said that the agreement on expanding the self-rule areas proved that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was right from the start and he has frustrated his opponents who had believed that the self-rule areas would not expand beyond Gaza and Jericho.

The writer said that Mr. Arafat faced Israeli procrastinations and obstacles with perseverance and proved that he is not subject to Israel's whims and desires but an independent leader who pursues his drive to serve his people. Mr. Arafat's hard bargaining led Israel to hand over seven Arab cities and hundreds of villages in the second phase of the Oslo deal and secured Israel's pledge to release all the Palestinian detainees, albeit in stages, said the writer.

For its part, Al Sabeel weekly attacked the Palestine-Israel agreement as another stage in Palestinian leaders' capitulation. The agreement allowed 400 Jewish settlers to remain in Hebron, failed to secure the release of all prisoners and left electricity and water supplies as well as overall security matters in the hand of Israel, said the weekly.

During the marathon negotiations, Mr. Arafat walked out of the meeting, accusing Israel of treating the Palestinian negotiators as slaves, and this means that the whole deal was tailored only to serve the Jewish state's objectives and protect its interests, said the paper.

Mahmoud Rimawi, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said that the agreement between the Palestinians and Israel could not have been realised had the Palestinian leadership not been perseverant and patient enough in the face of Israel's procrastinations and adamant stands. The writer said that Israel has repeatedly tried to delay the second phase of the Oslo deal and its negotiators repeatedly blocked the path of agreement at a time when the Jewish state continued its drive to confiscate more Arab lands and expand the Jewish settlements to cause frustration in the hearts of the Palestinians.

With the signing of the agreement in Washington, he added, the road is paved for the Palestinian leadership to tackle the refugees and the Jerusalem issues and hold the elections so as to establish Palestinian sovereignty on Palestinian lands.

We must admit that the Taba agreement does not embody all the Palestinian aspirations but it is rather a new step to enable the Palestinians to regain control over their land, said Mohammad Kawash, a writer in Al Dustour. With every achievement by the Palestinian leadership in Palestine, the credibility of Mr. Arafat's opponents decline further, said the writer. Of course, the presence of Palestinian opposition is necessary now and when the Palestinian state has been created because it serves as an incentive for the Palestinian leaders to double their efforts and attain more gains for the Palestinian people, he added. What is expected now is even more efforts and more pressure on Israel to force it to abide by the Oslo agreement and pave the way for the emergence of the independent Pales-

tinian state. Yasser Zaatreh, a writer in Al Dustour, condemned the Taba accord as a clear concession on the part of the Palestinian leaders and a sell-out of many of the Palestinian people's rights. The writer said that the agreement did not secure the departure of Jewish settlers from the Arab town of Hebron, or the release of the Palestinian prisoners. Furthermore, the agreement has failed to establish the Palestinians' rights to their capital Jerusalem and offered Israel the right to move freely in and out of Palestinian towns and villages, said the writer. The whole Taba deal, he said, is a farce that by no means served the Palestinian people's objectives.

In the view of Saleh Qalab, a writer in Al Dustour, the implementation of the Taba agreement will be much more difficult than the negotiations that led to it. We should not expect the Israelis to abide by the agreement, and sooner rather than later they would create new obstacles that would give them an excuse to remain in Arab lands, said the writer. Unless the Palestinians backed by the world community, especially the United States, to pressure Israel to carry out the agreement in full, the road to a settlement would be blocked and many of the Palestinian hopes would be dashed, he said.

A writer in Al Ra'i expressed apprehension that the presence of the Jewish settlers in the heart of Hebron would create a time bomb that could explode at any moment. Muafid Nahleh said under the terms of the Taba accord, Israeli troops will continue to guard and protect the Jewish settlers but no one can guarantee the protection of the local Arab residents from settler attacks. Furthermore, the Israeli forces in the Arab city are expected to help the settlers to expand their presence and perpetuate their stay in the Arab town in a manner that would provoke further hostilities, which would serve as a spark for a renewal of acts of violence.

It is regrettable to see the Palestinian families being

driven out of Libya at a time when they are hard pressed in their struggle to secure freedom from Israeli occupation and the restoration of their homeland, said Sultan Al Hattab in Al Ra'i daily. The writer said that by evicting the Palestinians from Libya, Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi is further aggravating the plight of the Palestinian people and complicating matters for their leaders to whom he should have extended support in their drive to create the Palestinian state.

By expelling Palestinians from Libya, Col. Qadhafi is trying to draw the world's attention to his own problems resulting from the U.N. sanctions clamped on Libya, said Mohammad Subeih, a writer in Al Dustour. He said that people who accuse Col. Qadhafi of being a lunatic are wrong and that they should understand that Col. Qadhafi is trying to put pressure on the United States and Israel to end the sanctions in exchange for cancelling the deportation order. The writer said that Col. Qadhafi is in a trap trying to find a way out of his predicament and has been under the illusion that the deportation of the Palestinians can do the trick in a dramatic way and help draw the world public's attention to his own problem.

In the view of Hamadeh Faraaqeh, a columnist in Al Dustour, Col. Qadhafi's order to expel Palestinians from Libya is not politically motivated as he claims it to be. The writer said that the expulsion came as a direct result of the economic, social and security problems facing the Libyan people resulting from the sanctions imposed by the United Nations on his country. The writer said that Col. Qadhafi is trying to direct the Libyan people's attention to an external "foe" and he believed that the expulsion of the Palestinians can take the Libyan people's mind off the internal problems.

A writer in Al Ra'i suggested that the government introduce amendments to the Penal Code in such a way that it would impose a fine on those who issue cheques that bounce.

It has only been since the beginning of the political liberalisation in 1989 that the issue of inter-communal tensions has begun to be broached publicly, specifically in the local press. Whether such tensions have actually increased in recent years, or whether the relatively greater freedom of expression allow in the Kingdom has simply allowed them to be voiced more openly, is a question that needs further exploration. However, denying the existence of these tensions, or attempting to discredit the centre's study based on selective, out-of-context readings of certain parts of the 20-page summary of historical background and discussions that took place at a retreat at the Dead Sea, serves no larger national interest.

Academics and policy-makers of a variety of backgrounds — history, economics, sociology, political science — have skills that can be brought to bear both in understanding the development of the inter-communal problem and in formulating appropriate policy responses. The centre's study is a most welcome, dispassionate (yet concerned) opening statement in what anyone who cares about a healthy and stable future for the Kingdom must hope will be a continuing exchange and debate.

The writer is associate professor of international relations at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles. She is the author of "Jordan's Inter-Arab Relations: The Political Economy of Alliance Making" (New York: Columbia University Press, 1995) and "Palestinians in the Arab World: Institution Building and the Search for State" (New York: Columbia University Press, 1988). She is on academic sabbatical in Jordan on a Social Science Research Council grant. She contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

Clinton, Mideast leaders hail Israeli-Palestinian accord

WASHINGTON (USA) — President Bill Clinton hailed Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel, Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority, and the "extraordinary array of leaders" gathered at the White House Thursday for the signing of the agreement on Palestinian self-rule and pledged that the United States "will stand with all of them" in working for a wider Middle East peace.

"We will continue to walk each step of the way with those who work and risk for peace," the president declared. "We will press forward with our efforts until the circle of peace is closed, a circle which must include Syria and Lebanon if peace is to be complete. We will not rest until... the shadow of violence is lifted."

Mr. Clinton was joined by Mr. Rabin, Mr. Arafat, King Hussein and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt in addressing the assemblage of leaders. Following is a transcript of their remarks:

Mr. Clinton: Prime Minister Rabin; Chairman Arafat; Your Majesty King Hussein; President Mubarak; Foreign Minister Peres; Mr. Abu Mazin; Prime Ministers Gonzalez, Filali, Bin Shaker, Foreign Minister Kozyrev; our co-sponsor of the Middle East peace negotiations; distinguished foreign ministers and members of the diplomatic corps; and honoured guests:

I welcome you to the White House for this milestone on the path to reconciliation. Today we make a great stride toward the fulfillment of a vision toward the day when two people divided by generations, by conflict, are bound now by peace. Finally, the time is approaching when there will be safety in Israel's house; when the Palestinian people will write their own destiny; when the clash of arms will be banished from God's Holy Land.

Two years ago, on another brilliant September day here at the White House, two men reached across one of history's widest chasms with a simple handshake. That moment is etched forever in our memory.

With the eyes of the world upon you, Mr. Prime Minister, you declared your wish to live side-by-side with the Palestinian people in dignity, in empathy, as human beings, as free men.

And you, Mr. Chairman, vowed to wage what you called "the most difficult battle of our lives, the battle for peace."

In the days of labour that have followed you have both shown profound courage in bringing us to this moment, and you have kept your word.

The enemies of peace have fought the tide of history with terror and violence. We grieve for their victims, and we renew our vow to redeem the sacrifice of those victims.

We will defeat those who will resort to terror. And we reverse the determination of the leaders who chose peace; who rejected the old habits of hatred and revenge.

Because they broke so bravely with the past, the bridges have multiplied — bridges of communication, of commerce, of understanding. Today, the landscape changes and the chasm narrows.

It is, indeed, the result of a commitment to peace, unwavering. And you have, indeed, witnessed and seen the hours spent and the efforts made and the obstacles surmounted because there is goodwill. And there is total commitment to peace by all those who played their part so far in shaping the comprehensive peace that we all seek in our part of the world.

In addition to all that, I believe for our Palestinian brethren — and they are the closest to us in the Arab World, and we are the closest to them — that is also the fulfillment of a dream they have struggled for years, a chance to contribute their share in shaping their future and to have their word regarding that future and destiny.

I am proud to be a part of this occasion on behalf of the government and people of Jordan; congratulate you on what you have achieved and to wish you every future success in the times ahead; and to assure you all — President Clinton, all my colleagues, brother and friends starting with President Mubarak, for Egypt was a pioneer on the path of peace; President Arafat; Prime Minister Rabin, with his farsightedness and unquestionable moral and physical courage; and all the other wonderful people who

have helped — the secretary of state, and the vision of Shimon Peres, and everyone who has — Dennis Ross — so many.

We will do everything we can. And hopefully, we'll meet again. And if we don't, hopefully, the process will continue beyond this point towards establishment of the comprehensive peace we seek, giving people the dignity that is their right, the security, tearing down the barriers of suspicion and hatred and confusion.

And I believe that I issue a challenge to any leader in our part of the world, or anywhere else in the world, to demonstrate courage — moral and physical courage — to show what responsibility really means by joining the peace camp for the better future of all the peoples of our region.

I hope they won't be wanting. I hope they will be there. And I hope that we will have fulfilled, after all these years of struggle, our responsibilities towards our people and the generations to come, the children of Abraham and their descendants forever.

Thank you very much, indeed. And I hope that we will next month see another major step in our part of the world to the signing of this agreement. It has been two years since we met at the White House to sign the Declaration of Principles to which we and our Israeli partners have agreed to in Oslo. We meet again today to make new headway in giving hope to this historic process, the process of realizing a credible peace, reconciliation and coexistence between the Palestinian and Israeli peoples, and the peace of the brave, which we achieved on Egyptian land at Taba under President Mubarak's auspices.

A significant portion of Palestinian national rights reverts today to the Palestinian people through their control of the cities, villages and populated areas. Recovery of this portion is a step in the implementation of the interim agreement, which we are gathered here to witness the signing. It is also a step which paves the way to a free and democratic Palestinian elections, capping thereby the political components required for the establishment of an independent Palestinian national entity on the Palestinian territories.

These steps which required tremendous efforts, as well as exhausting and relentless work throughout the past months, do not make us oblivious of the fact that added diligence lies ahead to implement this agreement on our land in the West Bank. We still carry on our shoulders many other tasks, such as moving to the permanent status negotiations.

This dream could not have come true without the courage and the farsightedness of a group of determined men who worked together under the most difficult circumstances in order to translate their vision into a living reality. We commend these courageous leaders and congratulate the Palestinian and Israeli peoples on this historic achievement.

We also thank those friendly nations which have stood firmly in support of the peace efforts — notably, the American people and their energetic leadership who put their full weight behind the leaders, and fulfilling their duties to future generations.

Dear friends, while we celebrate this historic event, we are determined that the challenge is not over yet. In the months ahead, we have to work hard in hand to facilitate the faithful implementation of the new agreement. This process will require greater understanding and cooperation. Equally needed is the material and the moral support of different nations in all four corners of the world.

We are also reminded that our mission of building peace will not be fulfilled until similar progress is made on the Syrian and the Lebanese tracks. All of us should reaffirm our fundamental goal of achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace. Those who hold the key to progress on those tracks are urged to exert maximum effort in the months ahead in order to make this possible.

On the other hand, we should not lose sight of the fact that what has been accomplished on the Palestinian front does not constitute a final settlement. It is still, nevertheless, an important step that is definitely going to make that goal easier to attain.

Finally, it is our duty to prove to all the peoples of the Middle East that the past is behind us at long last, and

that a brighter future is dawning throughout the area; a future that brings to realization not only the promise of peace and security, but also greater prospects for balanced development and prosperity. This should be the cornerstone of the vision we have for the new era.

Together, God willing, we shall succeed in our drive to write that bright chapter in the history of the Middle East.

Thank you.

Mr. Arafat: President William Clinton, president of the United States; Your Majesty King Hussein, King of Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; President Mohammad Hosni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt; Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, prime minister of Spain; and President in office of the European Council; Mr. Yitzhak Rabin, prime minister of Israel; Your Excellencies, Ministers and Ambassadors, ladies and gentlemen:

We are gathered today under the sponsorship of President Clinton, who has generously offered to host the signing of this agreement. It has been two years since we met at the White House to sign the Declaration of Principles to which we and our Israeli partners have agreed to in Oslo. We meet again today to make new headway in giving hope to this historic process, the process of realizing a credible peace, reconciliation and coexistence between the Palestinian and Israeli peoples, and the peace of the brave, which we achieved on Egyptian land at Taba under President Mubarak's auspices.

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Amman Economic Summit projects placed on Internet

By George Hishmeh
USIA Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Commerce Department launched this week a "homepage" on the Internet which will reach the "broadest possible audience" within the American business community identifying "projects and opportunities" for which Middle Eastern countries will be seeking partners at the Amman Economic Summit next month.

This followed a joint letter sent earlier this month by Secretaries of State and Commerce, Warren Christopher and Ronald Brown, respectively, inviting American businesses to support and participate in the economic conference in Amman scheduled for Oct. 29-31. About 150 U.S. firms are expected to be represented there.

Both said their initiative was "at the centre of our efforts to develop a private-sector focus to the Middle East peace process." They said that the upcoming summit will be "a business-driven, outcome-oriented conference focusing on commercial opportunities and projects."

More than 1,000 government and business leaders from 60 nations are expected in Jordan next month pri-

mately to demonstrate, in the opinion of one U.S. diplomat, that the Middle East peace process pays.

Unlike its predecessor, this conference will be focused on public and private partnership as well as seeing the "creation of key institutions called for in the Casablanca Declaration.

At that Moroccan meeting, the conference proposed the launching of a Middle East Development Bank, a regional Business Council and a regional Tourism Board. Several huge regional projects such as the Aqaba-Eilat airport and others within Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian self-rule areas are expected to be announced as well.

The International Trade Administration of the Department of Commerce has the Web address <http://www.ita.doc.gov/itahome.htm>.

The Amman Economic Summit, listed and accessible as a topic on this homepage, has the Web address of <http://www.ita.doc.gov/region/amm/an econof.htm>.

"We are going to do an aggressive job of match-making" between U.S. and Middle Eastern governments and businesses before and during the Amman Economic Summit, said Richard Gannon, senior advisor for trade

policy who is now at the Advocacy Centre, an export-promotion unit at the Commerce Department.

This is the first time that the Commerce Department has undertaken such an effort on the Internet, he stressed.

The Advocacy Centre, established 22 months ago by the Clinton administration, is responsible for coordinating export promotion activities of 19 U.S. government agencies that constitute the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee (TPCC), chaired by Secretary Brown.

"We are at the hub of that," explained Mr. Gannon. "We work in support of American investments and engagements... in tourism, hotels, resort construction, infrastructure, etc."

This was a new undertaking by the Clinton administration. "We are sick of being on the sidelines, wishing our companies well and doing nothing to support them," said Mr. Gannon, reflecting the strong views of Secretary Brown and other senior administration officials.

"We should take a more proactive role and we should work more with the companies."

In the first six months of this year, the Clinton administration provided successful advocacy on 62 transactions that helped U.S. exporters secure overseas agreements totalling \$12,600 million, including \$6,300 million

in U.S. export content.

It is estimated that these new transactions will support more than 83,000 U.S. jobs. This brings the total of advocacy successes to \$57,800 million since the Advocacy Centre's opening in November 1993, according to a TPCC release.

As far as the Amman conference, Mr. Gannon said in an interview that the U.S. administration has been tracking projects within the Gulf region, the Middle East and North Africa. "We are identifying opportunities for American investments and engagements... in tourism, hotels, resort construction, infrastructure, etc."

He said he has spent two weeks in the Middle East meeting with government officials, U.S. representatives and private sector representatives. He noted that some of the governments which will be participating in the Amman summit have already started sharing with the United States the business opportunities which will be publicised in Amman. In turn, he continued, he has begun providing American businesses with this information "to stimulate interest" in the region.

Jordan, for example, has a list of 27 projects that they have prepared with the assistance of the Canadian government, he reported. "There are an additional 60 projects that a U.S. investment house is preparing" for dissemination at the summit, he added.

He also cited the case of Qatar where, he said, both government and private sector representatives including the Chamber of Commerce are planning to present some 20 projects at Amman.

"The Israelis are doing the same thing. The Palestinian Authority and its private sector will also have their own list of projects," he added.

He pointed out that every Friday, the Switzerland-based World Economic Forum, which is organising the summit conference, sends the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service a list of the American companies which have signed up and the type of projects that will be pursued by the participating countries and businesses at Amman.

He said his centre has been able to identify about 150 projects for which tenders have been let and U.S. companies are actively pursuing.

He explained that there are also "opportunities" which the American firms can respond to. He described these as tenders that are still open or represent a vision of the host countries.

Explaining the homepage initiative, Mr. Gannon said

there will be an abstract on each project, identifying whether a feasibility study has been done, who undertook the feasibility study, whether there is financing and by whom. "This is the type of information the business community (here) wants to know," he emphasised.

On the other hand, once a U.S. company has signed up for the Amman conference, the Advocacy Centre will then request match-making information from that company, he explained. That is, what kind of business they are in, what subsidiaries they have in the Middle East, what kind of companies they are looking for in Amman, and what countries they are interested in.

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Dollar tumbles despite Bank of Japan intervention

to ensure Japan's economy recovered and would keep a "close watch" on currencies.

The yen's renewed rise is bad news for Japan's stagnant economy, as it would dent exporters' profits.

The government last week announced a mammoth 14.22 trillion yen (\$145 billion) package of economic stimulus measures in an attempt to put the economy back on a recovery track.

Currency dealers said the Bank of Japan bought dollars around 97.50 yen and above in Tokyo morning trade, after closing at around 99.25 yen and 1.4190 marks in New York Thursday.

The yen's surge against the dollar battered Tokyo share prices. The key Nikkei average ended down 109.80 points at 17,913.06.

A finance ministry official sought to soothe currency jitters, calling the dollar's drop a technical move and insisting the Group of Seven (G-7) leading nations would reaffirm their commitment to a strong dollar when their finance ministers and central bankers meet in early October.

Japan's Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama told parliament he would do his best

on the last business day of the fiscal half-year.

The central bank's intervention was half-hearted at best and no match for the aggressive selling, dealers said.

Some dealers predicted the dollar would remain fragile and under pressure at least until the G-7 ministers' meeting, which is expected around the first week of October.

Some said that since the dollar's rise earlier in September was an artificial creation of G-7 authorities, it would be hard to reverse its latest weakening without another dose of joint central bank intervention.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1995

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You have fine ideas for advancement and should put them in operation quickly. A newcomer provides necessary information.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 18) Find the right way to get advice from a clever person in business who can help you to become more prosperous.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Be more ingenious with a clever partner who holds the key to greater prosperity for you today. Reach agreements with others, also.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Stop procrastinating and get all the tasks completed which is important. Gain the cooperation of a fellow associate.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is an ideal day to plan recreation for the days ahead so that you can get the most enjoyment from them. Contact good friends.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) Now you can make those home arrangements today which have been difficult to do before this. Spend this evening at home with friends.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 21) Getting in touch with those you usually deal with and stating that you want them in your life far into the future is wise today.

SCORPIO: (October 22 to November 21) If you study the situation more carefully, understanding, you will know how to improve your monetary status.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You have fine ideas for advancement today and should put them in operation quickly to night for you to be successful.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Find the right philosophy that you want to follow later tonight and concentrate more on principles, rather than angles.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is an ideal evening to be your gregarious self and see as many persons as you possible can. Utilise your charm.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) First find out big-wigs expect of you today and then you can follow directives and gain benefits you deserve.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

OECD warns France to spend less, tax less

PARIS (AFP) — The French government should cut state spending instead of raising taxes and face up to the problems of public sector pay and entitlements, the OECD warns in a report.

The warning, described by one commentator as "devastating," is contained in a report on the French economy from the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Publication follows the first budget produced by Prime Minister Alain Juppe since he took office following the election of President Jacques Chirac, which was criticised for its failure to attack some of the country's fundamental problems.

The report criticises Mr. Juppe and his predecessor, Edouard Balladur, for the inadequacy of their efforts to cut the budget deficit.

It says that if the government is to achieve its aim of limiting the deficit to four per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 1996 and three per cent in 1997, to meet the criteria for monetary union laid down by the Maastricht

treaty, further efforts will have to be made.

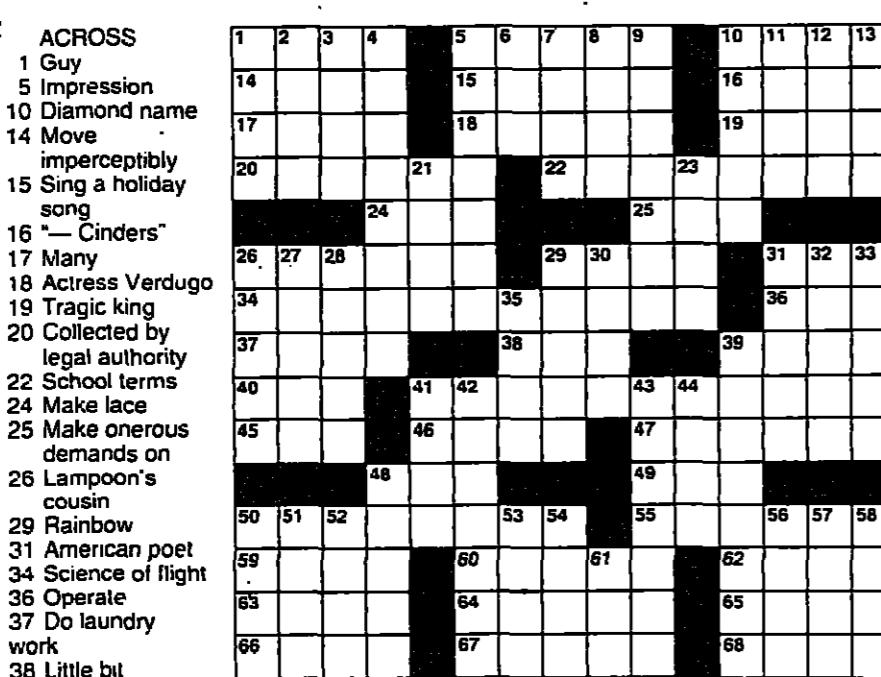
Both Germany and Britain should meet the target of reducing their budget deficits beneath the Maastricht limit of three per cent, the report says.

It warns that unless social spending is cut in 1996, as the government has pledged, the deficit will reach 4.5 per cent next year and not four per cent.

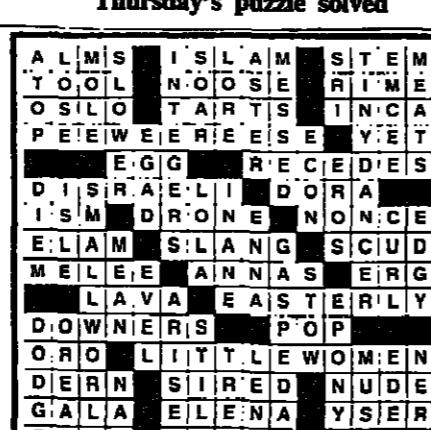
Although the report was prepared before the budget, it anticipates several measures taken in it. Echoing criticism of it by French employers and politicians, the OECD says it would have been better to prune public spending than raise taxes, since tax rises risk diluting the benefits arising from a cut in the costs borne by businesses.

The OECD says that cuts should be made in the public sector, arguing that the proportion of public sector employees in France (23 per cent) was much higher in France than in Germany or the United States in 1980 (15 per cent) and that some activities could be rationalised.

THE Daily Crossword by James Barrick



Thursday's puzzle solved



Deep-sea gas pipeline linking Oman to India is feasible

By Suleiman Al Khalidi
Reuters

AMMAN — Arab bankers and foreign exchange dealers said on Friday growth of derivatives trading within the region's financial markets could be hampered by past bank failures, state regulation and Islamic opposition.

"Regulatory curbs on foreign exchange in the region limits derivatives growth, being amongst the financial instruments that need more liberalisation," said Rida Assad, consultant in the Arab Institute for Banking and Financial Studies.

Both governments remain in talks on exporting Omani gas to India by special tankers as well as by pipeline. Initially Oman will supply India one billion cubic feet (28.3 million cubic metres) a day of natural gas through the 24-inch (60-cm) diameter line starting in 1999.

Both governments remain in talks on exporting Omani gas to India by special tankers as well as by pipeline.

region's financial markets had to "command the use of derivatives sooner than later, so that the Arab World does not take a back seat."

Bankers say the region's markets have only in the last few years become exposed to derivatives trading as new financial instruments comprising a whole range of futures, options and swaps to hedge against stocks, bonds, and currency investments.

Malik Joy, chief dealer in

(Continued on page 9)

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

UNREP

CLIMBING THE LADDER OF SUCCESS STARTS WITH THIS.

YERGES

RIMAPI

Answer here: IT

(Answers Monday).

Yesterday's Jumble: ITCHY EIGHT MARROW WAITER

Answer: WORTH THE WEIGHT

Peanuts



IF THAT LITTLE RED HAIRIED GIRL WAS HERE, I COULD PUSH HER ON THE SWING...

© 1995 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

Linus: I'D PUSH HER REAL HIGH, AND SHE'D LAUGH...

© 1995 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

Linus: SHE'D SAY, "PUSH ME HIGHER, CHARLIE BROWN!" AND SHE'D LIKE ME BETTER THAN ANYONE...

© 1995 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

Linus: MAYBE





A review
of economic news
from the Arabic press

Ministry determined not to float sanitary paper prices

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prices shot up by nearly three per cent at the Amman stock exchange this week, with weekly turnover rising by more than one-third, against expectations of an economic boom with the convening of a major regional conference in Amman next month, brokers said Thursday.

They said public state-

ments over the last few weeks by senior American officials and visits to Jordan by several U.S. investment groups had given rise to high hopes that American firms were poised to enter concrete joint ventures and come in with investments to the Kingdom.

The expectations were coupled with the passage of amendments to income and sales tax laws as well as a new investment promotion law that are seen key to attracting

foreign capital to the country with high incentives and tax holidays.

The weekly report of the Amman Financial Market (AFM), as the Jordanian stock exchange is officially known, said turnover for the week ending Thursday was 9.4 million dinars, up 36.2 per cent from the previous week's 6.9 million dinars.

The report said 5.4 million shares changed hands during the week under 5,104 con-

tracts. The official AFM index based on 60 major companies closed for the week at 159.7 points after gaining 4.2 points or 2.7 per cent. AFM dealers said the actual rise was close to four per cent, given that many companies which gained during the week are not included in the index.

Separate sectoral indices showed that banks gained by 4.6 per cent, services sector shares by two per cent, insur-

ance by 0.6 per cent and industrials by 0.3 per cent.

AFM brokers, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with market guidelines, said a recent decision by the Central Bank of Jordan to ease restrictions on commercial banks' lending in foreign currency was one of the major factors that shot up bank stocks in the market.

The AFM report said commercial banks and financial institutions accounted for

4.49 million dinars of the weekly turnover. Industrials came second with 2.57 million dinars, followed by services sector shares with a volume of 2.15 million dinars and insurance stocks with 170,000 dinars.

The week saw stocks of 95 companies changing hands. As trading closed for the week, 39 of them had gained, 36 slipped and 20 remained unchanged.

Brokers said they ex-

pected the upward trend to continue in the market in the run-up to the Oct. 29-31 Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit in Amman. Jordan is expected to present projects worth \$3.5 billion at the summit seeking financing, and indications have emerged that the governments of Japan, the U.S. and several European countries are encouraging their private sectors to invest in Jordan.

Brokers expect AFM trading, prices to continue upward trend

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

Japan's economy and would keep a "soft" on currencies, as Japan's stagnation as it would demand profits, government last week (15-16) economic stimulus in an attempt to economy back on a track.

Dealers said the Japan bought dollars 50 yen and above in morning trade. The Japanese currency fell as 45 yen earlier in the

morning recovered a bit, again in late, when the Bank of Japan came into the

low of 79.75 yen in a 15-month high in last week. It had been between 78.101 yen since

of dollars to help push the dollar along with selling bonds to buy yen

experts also

Japanese currency

their overseas can

the last business day

central bank's in

an was half-hearted

no match for the selling, dealers

predicted the could remain fragile

pressure at least

the G-7 minister

which is expected

the first week of

said that since the

first minister in

was an article of

G-7 authorities

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weakening with

the dose of joint intervention

ROSCOPES

LAST FOR SEPTEMBER 30, 1995

(March 21 to April

have fine ideas for

and should get

operation quickly. A

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fit.

He suggested opening the doors to import all kinds of sanitary paper to guarantee the right of the consumer to choose from a number of alternatives. He pointed out that the local manufacturers have benefitted many times, through various means, after 1989 having doubled their prices and reduced the weights of their products of sanitary paper. As such, he demanded that the Specification and Standardization Bureau put specifications for second grade sanitary paper fixing its weight and its qualities. Dr. Obeidat said the demands of the companies to amend the prices of second grade sanitary paper were somehow justified but that does not mean floating the prices because the costs of raw material input in the manufacturing of sanitary paper had increased only slightly. He added that despite of this, the conclusions of a study jointly undertaken by the ministry and the society point out that companies manufacturing sanitary paper are still making more than 13.5 per cent profit.

The danger is that derivatives operations are long term and due to fluctuation of interest rates it poses much higher risk than spot dealings and straight money market transactions," said Rafik Aramouni, president of the Forest Club in Lebanon.

Few bankers were able to

put a figure on the volume of derivatives trading in the region, or its share of the trillion dollar global market in the new financial instruments.

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Salem wins event at horse show

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Amer Salem of Jordan won the first place in the marathon event closing the five-day of the Sixth International Arabian horse at home show held at the Royal Stables.

Salem crossed the 43-kilometre race on "Ghazal" in 1 minute 34 seconds. Mohammad Ali Abu Skout came in second on "Golden Decans" clocking in 1:38. Ayman Benzo of Jordan won third place on "Slash" in 1:41.

The marathon competition started from Amra Castle and ended at the University farm. Only 21 of the 32 Jordanian horses which participated finished the race.

Abu Skout won the best jockey prize while Mazaa Saleh, owner of "Hamman" collected JD 1,500 for "the best horse."

Earlier on Thursday, in the junior non-registered Arabian horses competition, Jordanian horses "Bushra" and "Tarek" won first and second places respectively.

In the senior non-registered Arabian horse, "Samarkand" owned by Iyad Shalan clinched first place while "Mahboubah Katrina" came in second. Qatari horses, "Kamala," "Imperial Giafta," and "Alia" collected the first three places in the junior females competition.



World champion Garry Kasparov of Russia ponders his next move during his match against challenge Viswanathan Anand of India in the eleventh game of the best-of-20-game Professional Chess Association World Championship match at the World Trade Centre in New York. Kasparov won the game after 31 moves (Reuters photo)

Jones to take on Whitaker in basketball

PENSACOLA, Florida (AP) — Roy Jones Jr. and Pernell Whitaker has each been described as the world's best pound-for-pound boxer.

On Dec. 9 at the Pensacola Civic Centre, they will take each other on — in basketball, not boxing.

The basketball game is sponsored by Home Box Office and the Pensacola News Journal. It is the first of a series of goodwill and charity events to be known as "reaching beyond the ring."

The announcement came as a prelude to Jones' International Boxing Federation (IBF) title defence Saturday at the civic centre against Tony Thornton.

Jones, the IBF super middleweight champion, said he hopes the basketball game will improve boxing's image.

"It's very important that we try to reach out and help as many people as we can while at the same time we can show that boxers are not such bad people," Jones said.

"People always think everybody's like Mike Tyson ... or everybody's like James Toney. Everybody isn't that way."

Tyson, the former

senior female competition was won by "Wasimah," "Marbella" and "Imperial Amfania."

The junior males competition was also dominated by Qatari horses. "Ryan," "Bin Shabd" and "Shalm" collected the first three positions.

Jordanian and Qatari horses split positions in the senior males competition. Qatari "Kamal Batal" came in first place followed by Jordanian "Skidly" and "Stam."

"Wasimah" and "Marbella" won the supreme female championship, while Jordanian horses "Kamal Batal" and "Skidly" shined again in the supreme male competition.

Thursday and Friday's events were attended by The Royal Highnesses Princess Alia and Zein, and other Royal family members, Qatari Ambassador to Jordan, Shuaib Al Kawari, president of Qatari Equestrian Federation.

The five-day event was organised by the Jordanian Arabian Horse Society, which is headed by Princess Alia.

One of the main aims of the Arabian horse show is to enable horse breeders to qualify their Arabian horses to take part in international competition.

Moreover, the show aims at exposing Arab culture and demonstrating the endurance of Arabian horses.

FIFA welcomes agents' association

GENEVA (R) — The newly-formed International Association of Football Agents was welcomed on Friday by FIFA, soccer's world governing body.

FIFA Deputy General Secretary Michel Zen Ruffin told Reuters: "We welcome the founding of this new international association. The present situation must be changed."

"It is like a jungle. The renegades must be weeded out. There are too many litigations pending at the moment involving players' agents."

The association's first main meeting is set for Brussels on November 6.



Canadian cyclist Curt Harnett celebrates after his world record, breaking the 10-second barrier with a time of 9.865, was flashed on the scoreboard (Reuters photo)

Harnett breaks 200-m world record

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Curt Harnett of Canada broke the world record in a qualifying race for the 200-metre time trial Thursday at the World Cycling Championships, the second world record to fall at the event.

Harnett finished in 9.865 seconds, one of three riders to break the 10-second barrier. In all, seven riders shattered the Russian cyclist Vladimir Adamachivili's record of 10.099 seconds set in 1990.

"What we've done is fantastic," said Harnett after the race at Bogota's Luis Carlos Galan Velodrome. "This is a

Belgian Lawyer Dirk Degraen told reporters one of the main reasons for forming the association was a new FIFA regulation forbidding agents to take any payment from clubs when they effect a transfer.

"This is unfair especially if a club asks an agent to look for a certain type of player," Degraen said.

"We would like the term football agents to be used instead of players' agents."

The association's first main meeting is set for Brussels on November 6.

South Korea sweep judo golds

CHIBA, Japan (AFP) — Chun Ki-Young, Cho Min-Sun and Chung Sung-Sook clinched three gold medals in a row for South Korea, putting their country on top of the table at the World Judo Championships on Friday.

Japan had to wait till the last event of the day for their first gold when Toshihiko Koga, Barcelona Olympic 71kg champion, won the 78kg class.

Cho had to wait till the last event of the day for their first gold when Toshihiko Koga, Barcelona Olympic 71kg champion, won the 78kg class.

In Hamilton, I was young

and I never felt pressure,

because it was my first appearance in the world championships. This time, my opponent in the final was the same. I just tried to do my best to beat him," said Chun.

"It was not my tactics to

use o-soto-gari (major outer

reaping) against him today,

but it just occurred in my

mind to try that technique

when I watched him playing

in video tape," he added.

Meanwhile, Yoshida said:

"Although I was beaten, I'm

not feeling so bad, because

I beat me by a decisive

ippon, not a decision. I have

no excuse that I was not in

good condition coming into

the championships."

South Korea, who won

only two gold through Chun

and Cho two years ago,

added one more when Chung

Sung-Sook crushed Euro-

pean champion Jenny Gal of

the Netherlands to win the

women's 61kg category.

The Korean attacked

aggressively throughout the

four-minute battle, gaining a

yoko and going on to win the

light middleweight title.

In the men's light mid-

dleweight final, Koga made no

mistakes displaying his one

arm shoulder throw to put

Oren Smagda of Israel down

2:48 into the bout.

On Thursday, David

Douillet of France, Angelique Serieze of the Netherlands

and Diadenis Luna of

Cuba and Pawel Nasula of

Poland clinched the first four

titles.

"Physically, my opponents are taller and their arms are longer than those I played against in the 71kg class. It was difficult to cope with, but it's good experience for me aiming at next year (Atlanta Olympics)," said Koga.

France took two bronze medals through Catherine Fleury and Djamel Bouras, while Poland, Canada, Russia, Belgium, the United States and Austria took home the remaining six bronze.

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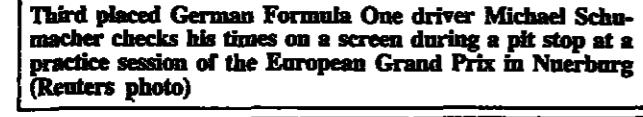
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Cuba and Pawel Nasula of

Poland



British Formula One driver Damon Hill wipes his helmet during a practice session of the European Grand Prix in Nuerburg (Reuters photo)



Third placed German Formula One driver Michael Schumacher checks his times on a screen during a pit stop at a practice session of the European Grand Prix in Nuerburg (Reuters photo)

Maradona impresses South Koreans

SEOUL (AFP) — Diego Maradona ends a 11-month dope ban in a match against South Korea here on Saturday — and the aging star is already making a good impression.

The local media, which has criticised the Argentine for his arrogance and erratic behaviour, is now full of praise for his dedication to football.

"Despite all his arrogance and controversial behaviour, one thing about him is more than admirable, his sincere attitude in training," said Sports Seoul.

The daily noted during his week-long stay here, Maradona had not missed a single training session — despite breaking promises of public appearances and leaving fans, including children, in the lurch.

Boca Juniors team leader, Silvio Marzolini, said he would allow Maradona to play the full 90 minutes.

"Maradona is now in good shape. The comeback match will be a good game to go into the memory of football fans," he said.

"South Koreans are good at speed and power, but our team has an advantage in

skill," he said.

Maradona, 35, heavier and slower, will turn out for his old club in his first match since playing against Nigeria in the 1994 World Cup in the United States, where he was expelled for using the stimulant ephedrine.

It was Maradona's second drug ban after a 15-month ban for cocaine use while playing in the Italian League for Napoli:

He signed a two-year contract, worth \$8 million, for Boca Juniors in June after a deal to play for Pele's former club, Santos, fell through.

Maradona will join forces with his old-time partner and star striker, Claudio Caniggia in the match, to be televised live across South Korea.

Caniggia, 28, on loan for a year from Portugal's Benfica, was Maradona's partner in the 1990 Italian World Cup and the 1994 event.

Local football experts say speedy Caniggia could turn out to be more of a threat than Maradona for South Korea, whose offence will be led by star striker Koh Jung-Woon, picked as a world star in the 1994 World Cup.

"South Koreans are good at speed and power, but our team has an advantage in



Argentina superstar Diego Maradona chases the ball during first practice with his team, the Boca Juniors in Seoul (Reuters photo)

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In UEFA Cup, big guns given easy draw

GENEVA, Switzerland (AFP) — UEFA Cup favourites AC Milan, Barcelona and Bayern Munich look set for an easy second round after drawing competition minnows here on Friday.

The Italian giants play French Intertoto Cup qualifiers Strasbourg, who came through against Hungarians Ujpest, 5-0.

But Strasbourg's French international central defender Francis Laboeuf was undeterred: "It's great. They are exactly the kind of team we need to play if we are to have any ambition," he said.

Barcelona, 1994 European Cup finalists, appear to have shaken off the departures of 1994 World Cup final star

strikers Brazilian Romario and Bulgarian Stoichkov.

Their Bosnian striker Mato Kdro has scored three goals in four league games and alongside Portuguese star Luis Figo will prove a handful for Figo's countrymen of Vitoria Guimaraes, who qualified 3-1 against Belgians Standard Liege.

Bayern Munich, who have not dropped a point in the domestic league this season, play Scots side Raith Rovers, who scraped through 3-2 against Akranes of Iceland.

The British clubs face a mixed bag in the UEFA cup.

Leeds United are set for an uphill struggle against former European champions Dutch side PSV Eindhoven, cur-

rently second in the domestic league, who crushed Finland's Mypa 4-2 in the first round.

Twice former European Cup winners Nottingham Forest play French club Auxerre, third in the domestic league and Liverpool play Bondby of Denmark.

Another Franco-Italian pitches last season's league runners-up Lyon against

Lazio. In the Cup Winners' Cup, Scottish Premier Division leaders Glasgow Celtic, easy winners in their first round tie against Georgians Dinamo Batumi, face a far stiffer task against French league leaders Paris Saint Germain.

The French side, European

semi-finalists last season, may have lost leading scorer Panamanian Dely Valdes for two months but have welcomed back French international striker Patrice Loko after treatment for psychiatric problems.

The Scottish side, winners of the 1967 European Cup, will not be unhappy that they go to Paris for the first leg.

English Cup winners Everton, winners of the 1985 competition, like Leeds United in the UEFA Cup, face through Dutch opposition in Feyenoord.

The Liverpool club had some worrying moments against Icelandic part-timers Reykjavik in the first round whereas the Dutch club came

through 13-0 on aggregate. Cup Winners' Cup holders Real Zaragoza face Belgian club Brugge at home in the first leg. Brugge were knocked out in the quarter-finals by Chelsea last season while Zaragoza then defeated the London club in the semi-finals.

The 1993 winners Parma face a seemingly easy tie against Swedish club Halmstad. The Swedes gained an impressive first round win against Bulgarians Lokomotiv Sofia and Parma's unpredictable form, their Italian Cup loss to lowly Palermo for instance, suggests that Halmstad could produce an upset.

Deportivo La Coruna, coached by former Liverpool

hero and Welsh coach John Toshack, have, like Parma, risen from the lower leagues in recent seasons and challenged the status quo of traditional trophy winners.

They must travel for the first leg to Turkish side Trabzonspor, six times Turkish champions.

Trabzonspor will cope with the striking skills of Brazilian World Cup star Bebeto, former Barcelona Spanish international forward Aitor Beguiristain and Russian Dimitri Radchenko.

Their narrow 3-2 aggregate victory over Lithuanians Zalgiris Vilnius in the first round does not suggest that Toshack's side will have too many problems.



Dutch Feyenoord Rotterdam striker Regi Blommaert (centre) fights for the ball with Dag Liepaja midfielders Maxim Kasjan (left) and Normund Zile during an early action of the second leg Cup Winners Cup match Feyenoord Rotterdam against Dag Liepaja from Latvia in Rotterdam, Sept. 28 (Reuters photo)

Fabre mounts powerful Arc challenge to Lammtarra

PARIS (R) — French master trainer Andre Fabre mounts a typically powerful challenge in Sunday's Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe in an effort to foil all conquering English Derby winner Lammtarra.

Although Fabre's Irish Derby winner Winged Love had to be withdrawn on Thursday due to the deteriorating ground at Longchamp, Fabre will saddle three of the expected 16 runners for the one and a half mile (2-4 km) Autumn High-

Fabre's assault for the \$750,000 top prize is led by last year's winner Carnegie with both Freedom Cry and Swain holding reasonable claims.

But Lammtarra remains a solid 3-1 favourite to become the first horse since Mill Reef in 1971 to complete the Epsom Derby, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth diamond stakes and Arc treble.

Despite his inexperience and the fact he has never raced on soft ground, Lammtarra continues to head the betting with champion jockey Frankie Dettori optimistic he can capture his first Arc at his eighth attempt.

Carnegie and Swain are both the property of top owner Sheikh Mohammed of Dubai whose godolphin empire is represented not only by Lammtarra but also by third favourite Bal-

chine, last year's Epsom Oaks and Irish Derby winner.

Walter Swinburn, who won the derby on Lammtarra, rides Balanchine, who has made a miraculous return to the big time following two life-threatening bouts of colic.

France have another top class entry in Carling (8-1), winner of the group one Prix Verneille at Longchamp three weeks ago and a dual French classic winner.

Carling was sold last week to leading Japanese owner Teruya Yoshida and will race in his colours after a deal brokered by top French bloodstock agent Patrick Barbe, whose wife Corine trains the filly.

Pure Grain (12-1), trained in England by Michael Stoute, is another talented filly.

The two-day meeting starts on Saturday when English

raider Double Trigger, Ascot and Goodwood Cup winner, bids for the group one Prix du Cadran en route to a crack at the Melbourne Cup in November.

City Guide for Amman

Cost-effective advertising opportunity for hotels, restaurants, shops and services

Arabesque International is publishing a city guide for Amman on Oct. 25. The pocket-size guide, a product of thorough research in beautiful full colour, will include a directory for hotels, restaurants, shops, leisure outings, and various services. You can have a slot in the directory with a photograph and a 16-word text entry.

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ADVERTISEMENT

Auction for the lease of plots of land for tourism development on the Eastern Shore of the Dead Sea (Suweimeh).

The Ministry of Water and Irrigation / The Jordan Valley Authority announces its intention to auction the lease of plots of land for tourism investment projects on the Eastern Shore of the Dead Sea / Suweimeh. Those who wish to participate in the auction are invited to contact the Ministry of Water and Irrigation / Jordan Valley Authority - The Department of Land and Rural Development as of September 30, 1995, to obtain a copy of the auction terms according to the following:

- Two plots of land, temporary numbers 1 & 2 basin 39 (Farshat Ain Ghazal). These lie directly on the sea shore to the north of the Dead Sea Spa Hotel. Area of each plot is about 64 dunums.

- The plots will be suitable for building hotels and/or tourist villages of four or five star standard.

- Last date for obtaining auction terms is fixed on Saturday, October 7th, 1995.

- A site group visit will be arranged for the bidders on Monday, October 9th, 1995.

- Offers shall be deposited in the bids box located at the Jordan Valley Authority / Department of Land and Rural Development no later than 2 p.m. on Monday October 25, 1995.

- The Jordan Valley Authority will advertise the availability of lease for the plots of land within the Suweimeh development area located to the east and west of the main road as soon as the studies are completed by the Engineering Consultant commissioned by the Jordan Valley Authority.

- All interested investors are invited to submit bids, including those who had previously submitted pre qualification statements.

Secretary General
Jordan Valley Authority
Eng. Hashim Ashoul

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The British Embassy's Chevening Scholarships Scheme provides funds for post-graduate study in the United Kingdom.

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Chevening Scholarships are normally awarded for Masters degrees, although they can be awarded for other courses. Candidates are encouraged to apply in humanities subjects and in applied sciences. Applications for medicine and dentistry will not be considered.

Scholars will be expected to make some contribution towards the cost of their studies.

Application forms are available from the British Embassy or the British Council in Amman from Sunday 1 October and the closing date for the receipt of completed applications is 15 November 1995.

BRITISH EMBASSY, AMMAN



British Embassy

Amman

Jordan's quest for better Arab relations aims at safeguarding pan-Arab interests - Rawabdeh

AMMAN (J.T.) — Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh has said Jordan's efforts to strengthen its relations with the other Arab countries are aimed at helping to safeguard the Arab Nation's interests.

"Unity of Arab ranks and meetings among Arab leaders are bound to help the nation to confront the challenges and attain the nation's aspirations," a statement by Mr. Rawabdeh in a statement to the Qatari News Agency.

Mr. Rawabdeh said that "those who believe that Jordan's quest for inter-Arab reconciliation aims at achieving a specific interest for Jordan are wrong because the Kingdom believes that any pan-Arab meeting will serve all the Arab countries."

Mr. Rawabdeh said Jordan refuses to reply to hasty statements on the part of Arab officials and prefers to leave it to the Arab Nation to decide on matters pertaining to national interest.

He stressed that Jordan will remain committed to its principles and working quietly and persistently to safeguard pan-Arab interests.

Kuwaiti Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah was quoted as saying on Wednesday that his country had not forgotten what he called Jordan's cooperation with Iraq during the Gulf crisis and dismissed as

"wrong and baseless," reports that a rapprochement between Kuwait and Jordan was imminent.

The Kuwaiti criticism of Jordan has soured moves to end their Gulf war-era rift and could complicate U.S. efforts to tighten Iraq's economic isolation, analysts and diplomats said in Kuwait.

The comments by Sheikh

Sheikh Saad has said Kuwait is willing to discuss resuming oil supplies to Jordan to help reduce its reliance on Iraqi oil.

"The fact is that there is a split in public opinion about Jordan. The side which cares about the future wants better relations (with Jordan)," a Foreign Ministry official said.

The other side does not want to forget the wrongs of the past."

Better ties between Jordan and Gulf states like Kuwait are a key part of U.S. efforts to wean Jordan away from economic reliance on Iraq and step up pressure within Iraq for President Saddam Hussein's downfall.

"We have one government and it should speak with one voice," he said of Sheikh Saad's remarks about Jordan. "It is understandable that Kuwaitis do not like Jordan but reconciliation is a pragmatic path that is worth looking at."

Sheikh Saad had ruled out any resumption of relations until Jordan did more to dis-

tance itself from what he called its shameless pro-Iraqi stance during Baghdad's seven-month occupation.

Mr. Jamal said these comments were in contrast with Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah's repeated welcoming of the prospect of better ties with the U.S.

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per cent, with 17 per cent without an opinion.

Relations were not cut after the war but Jordan's embassy in Kuwait remains closed and Kuwait's embassy in Amman is headed by a chargé d'affaires.

Diplomats said it was not immediately clear what effect Sheikh Saad's comments would have on continuing efforts to improve Jordan-Kuwait ties. Such efforts moved up a gear after Jordan gave asylum in August to two senior Iraqi defectors.

Sheikh Sabah met his Jordanian counterpart Abdul Karim Al Kababri in Cairo two weeks ago in the first high-level contact between the two countries since the Gulf crisis.

Sheikh Sabah may meet

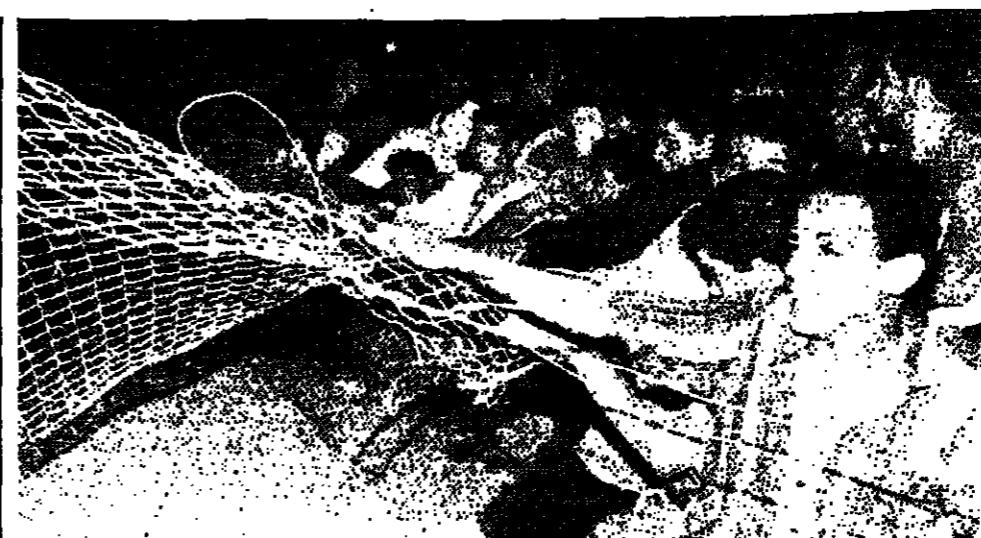
Mr. Kababri again in the next few days at the United Nations General Assembly meeting in New York.

Diplomats noted Kuwait shortly send ambassadors to Mauritania and Algeria for the first time since the Gulf crisis. Both countries were seen sympathetic to Iraq during the crisis.

Kuwait-based diplomats say they expect American lobbying for a reconciliation between Kuwait and Jordan to continue, as part of a twin track effort by Washington to isolate Iraq and bring Gulf states into the Arab-Israeli peace process.

Any rift with Amman could crush the Iraqi economy, already reeling under five years of trade sanctions, because Jordan is Iraq's sole remaining economic link to the outside world.

A poll published in Al Watan newspaper last month showed Kuwaitis objecting to an improvement in ties by a margin of 51 per cent to 32



CELEBRATION: Palestinians tear down the wire fence put by the Israeli army around the Dheisheh camp in the West Bank as they celebrate the signing on Thursday of an agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation on expanding Palestinian self-rule to the West Bank (see page one) (AFP photo)

Israel said poised to unveil E. Jerusalem housing plan

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Leftist members of Jerusalem's city council on Friday called on Israel to reconsider a plan to build a new Jewish neighbourhood in the Arab half of the city to avoid a crisis with Israel's Arab peace partners.

In a letter published in the Arabic-language *Kol Al Arab* newspaper, four members of the council said Housing Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer intended to officially announce on Sunday plans to build the Har Homa neighbourhood in East Jerusalem.

The letter said the plan was to anger Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat. Israel says part of the

land is owned by Jews and part was confiscated from Palestinians and owners on a hill called Jabal Abu Ghneim.

In May, Israel bowed to international pressure and froze an order to confiscate Palestinian-owned land in East Jerusalem intended for Jewish Housing and police station.

Israel and the PLO signed a peace accord on Thursday in Washington expanding Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank. The two sides are scheduled to start discussing the final status of Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, by mid-1996.

Israel has said it was planning a housing project on land straddling the line between the occupied West Bank and south-east Jerusalem. Israel says part of the

Manila Muslims petition UAE to free maid

MANILA (R) — More than 1,000 Muslims in the Philippines lodged a petition on Friday with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) embassy in Manila urging the release of condemned Filipina maid Sarah Balabagan.

Pendatun Disimban, spokesman of the newly formed group called United Muslims for Sarah Balabagan's Freedom, told reporters the maid should be freed because she only sought to defend her honour.

Ms. Balabagan, whom Manila claims is 16 but who the UAE says is 27, was sentenced to death by a UAE court earlier this month for stabbing to death her Arab employer whom she accused of raping her. The court rejected her plea of self-defence.

"In purity of her human spirit, she was obliged to defend herself at the time the crime was committed against her will," Mr. Disimban said.

He said their group would hold daily prayer vigils in front of a mosque and before the emirates' embassy in Manila ahead of the first hearing on the appeal filed by Ms. Balabagan's lawyers.

The petition appealing for the maid's freedom was handed over to a UAE envoy and then a short rally was held by the group in front of the emirates' embassy.

The first hearing on Ms. Balabagan's appeal has been moved up to Oct. 9 from Oct. 30 so a decision can be reached quickly on the case, a senior emirates' judge said on Thursday.

Ms. Balabagan's chief lawyer, Mohammad Al Amin, has predicted the appeal process would last no longer than two months.

The case has provoked outrage among Filipinos, still angry over the hanging by Singapore of Filipina maid Flor Contemplacion.

Newspaper and magazine

editors in the UAE have criticised the uproar which erupted in the Philippines over the verdict and a UAE official said pressure from Manila could hamper Ms. Balabagan's efforts to win leniency.

Ms. Balabagan's parents are due to fly to the UAE with a joint affidavit from residents of her hometown to show she was born on March 3, 1979 to prove she is only 16. Her lawyer said her age would be a crucial factor in her bid to win her freedom.

Mr. Clinton said at the Washington signing ceremony that "we will press forward with our efforts until the circle of peace is closed. And the circle must include Syria and Lebanon if peace is to be complete."

The U.S. leadership must use "firm diplomacy and adopt decisive positions to get out of this impasse and bring peace and security in the region."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prisoners escape from Aideed's jail

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Twelve elders and religious leaders accused of "treason" escaped over the wall of a warlord's jail in south Mogadishu early Friday, making their way over the "green line" to safety in the north of the Somali capital, relatives reported. Five militiamen guarding the prison went missing at the same time, taking their automatic rifles with them. The escape from the prison, run by General Mohammad Farah Aideed, elected "interim president" of Somalia by his supporters last June, copied that of AFP correspondent Alai Musa Abdi, who climbed the wall on Wednesday with the complicity of guards after being held for three weeks, accused of "serious" but unspecified crimes against Gen. Aideed's "government." Families of the prisoners who reported their escape said they had been fed once a day and given lectures every afternoon by militia psychologists on respect for Gen. Aideed's "government." Aideed's men were reported to be combing south Mogadishu on Friday in search of the escapees. Aideed's men meanwhile transferred all political prisoners from the jail once used by the criminal investigation department of President Mohammad Siad Barre, who was overthrown in 1991, to the main prison in south Mogadishu. A provincial governor is also reported to have escaped from captivity in the inland town of Baidoa, which Gen. Aideed captured on Sept. 10 at the head of a 600-man column he led the 250 kilometres from Mogadishu.

3 beheaded for drugs in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH (AP) — An Afghan, a Pakistani and a Chadian convicted for drug trafficking were beheaded Friday in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah, raising the number of executions so far this year to a record 181. Most of those beheaded were convicted drug smugglers from Asia and Africa. The capital punishment for drug crimes was prescribed in 1987 by the kingdom's theologians in an effort to curb a growing narcotics trade. Before 1987, the death penalty was given only to rapists and murderers in accordance with Islamic law. London-based Amnesty International has expressed grave concern over the beheadings. Aideed's men mean while transferred all political prisoners from the jail once used by the criminal investigation department of President Mohammad Siad Barre, who was overthrown in 1991, to the main prison in south Mogadishu. A provincial governor is also reported to have escaped from captivity in the inland town of Baidoa, which Gen. Aideed captured on Sept. 10 at the head of a 600-man column he led the 250 kilometres from Mogadishu.

India bans latest Rushdie book

NEW DELHI (AFP) — The Indian authorities on Friday formally banned the import of the latest book by Indian-born writer Salman Rushdie, which is in the race for this year's prestigious Booker Prize. Customs officials announced a ban on "The Moon's Last Sigh" but did not provide any explanation for the move. Mr. Rushdie has been living in hiding since 1989, when the late Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini issued a death warrant against him because of a previous book, "The Satanic Verses" which was deemed blasphemous. Officials said major book distributors and retailers across India had been informed of the ban on Mr. Rushdie's latest work. The book had already been boycotted in the western state of Maharashtra because a character bears an unflattering resemblance to maverick Hindu politician Bal Thackeray. There have also been objections to a dog called Jawaharlal Nehru, the name of India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

Israel court rejects appeal for hijacker's release

BEERSHEBA (AFP) — A court turned down an appeal here Friday for the release of an Iranian who hijacked a plane in Israel and now wants to marry a Jewish girl and convert, legal officials said. The court in the southern town of Beersheba extended Jabari Rizah's custody until next Thursday, rejecting the appeal of a defence lawyer for his release pending charges. Mr. Rizah, a 30-year-old air steward, has asked for asylum and said he wants to convert to Judaism and marry a Jewish girl, since hijacking an Iranian Boeing 707 with more than 170 people on board to southern Israel on Sept. 9. "I love the Jewish people and I am asking not to be tried," he said at an earlier hearing. Israeli officials have said the asylum request would be rejected. He could be charged with hijacking, illegal possession of a gun, and illegal entry. But officials say Mr. Rizah is more likely to be turned over to the International Committee of the Red Cross, Iran, which has accused Israel of involvement in the hijacking, wants his extradition and has appealed to the International Civil Aviation Organisation for help.



English rugby star and wife separate

LONDON (R) — English rugby captain Will Carling, whose friendship with Princess Diana has grabbed newspaper headlines, and his wife have decided to spend time apart, a spokesman for the couple said. The 29-year-old sportsman and his news presenter wife Julia said they hoped the separation would be temporary and no third party was involved. "Will Carling announced with regret tonight that he and his wife Julia have agreed to spend some time apart," Carling said in a statement issued by Colin Herring, the rugby union's media liaison officer.

"They both believe that they need space and some peace for the time being. They want to emphasise that nobody else is involved and they hope that by allowing themselves time apart to reflect, they will be able to get back together as soon as possible. They will issue no further statements."

Israel and the PLO signed a peace accord on Thursday in Washington expanding Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank. The two sides are scheduled to start discussing the final status of Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, by mid-1996.

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